

Freighter reported missing in Gulf

BAHRAIN (R) — A Marsee-registered freighter bound for Bombay has been reported missing in the Gulf, shipping sources said Tuesday. They said the 2,958-tonne Bahin Three left Doha in the central Gulf with a full load of scrap metal last Thursday but failed to appear in the Emirate of Fujairah for bunker fuel as scheduled on April 1. Authorities in Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Oman and Iran had been alerted but so far there was no word on the whereabouts of the ship, they said. "We have no idea where the Bahin Three is — anything could have happened," said a spokesman for Al Gath Al Ghamim and Al Qutab, the vessel's agents in Dubai. He said the ship was owned by the Hong-Kong based firm United Ship Management. Officials at Bahrain Radio said an alert issued Monday seeking notification from any ship which sighted or had radio contact with the Bahin Three was still in effect. "During the Iran-Iraq war, it wasn't unusual for ships to just disappear in this part of the world," said one source who wished to remain anonymous. "But since the ceasefire, everything seems to have calmed down. It's a complete mystery."

Jordan Times

An independent political daily published by the Jordan Press Syndicate
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية الراية

Cyprus congratulates Arafat

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — President George Vassiliou Tuesday sent a letter congratulating Yasser Arafat on becoming the first president of the Palestinian state. "I should like to express the warmest congratulations of the people and the government of Cyprus and myself personally," Vassiliou said in his letter to Arafat. "I wish you success in the difficult task ahead and in your struggle for vindication of the aspirations of the heroic Palestinian people for the establishment of their state," the letter said. The text was released by government officials. Arafat, the long-time chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), was elected president of Palestine by the PLO Central Committee at a meeting in Tunis Sunday. The PLO parliament, the Palestine National Council, proclaimed an independent state at a meeting in Algiers last November. The borders of the state remain undefined but would include the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

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Jordan, Norway discuss Mideast developments

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasbi Tuesday exchanged views with the visiting Norwegian Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg, on bilateral relations and issues of mutual concern, in addition to the latest developments in the region. Qasbi voiced Jordan's appreciation of the positive stand adopted by foreign ministers of the four Scandinavian countries during their meeting last month. Stoltenberg arrived here Tuesday morning from the Israeli occupied West Bank on the second leg of his three-nation tour which also includes Syria. In an arrival statement, the Norwegian minister said his country supports the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East, to be attended by all parties involved in the conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which has been recognised by the Palestinians and the Arabs as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Stoltenberg pointed out that the Palestinians have the right to select their own representatives to the international peace conference. He noted that his country has initiated contacts with the PLO.



Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasbi Tuesday receives the Norwegian Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg (Petra photo)

and its Chairman Yasser Arafat following the Palestine National Council (PNC) resolutions last year to recognise the United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 and denounce terrorism. Stoltenberg stressed the importance of the time factor and the need for holding the conference as early as possible, and said there are still many obstacles and challenges which should be overcome before the conference is convened. Stoltenberg said his tour aims at obtaining first-hand information on the latest developments in the region and the efforts made to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region. Later Tuesday Stoltenberg arrived in Damascus for talks with Syrian officials on the latest developments in the region and the efforts currently underway to ensure convening an international peace conference. Stoltenberg and foreign ministers of Sweden, Denmark and Finland last month met in Copenhagen to discuss the Middle East and issued a statement welcoming the new developments on the Palestinian scene, following the PNC resolutions and the initiation of dialogue between the PLO and the United States. The statement said that the steps taken to push the peace process forward entails a positive and urgent Israeli response. In their statement the four foreign ministers also voiced their respective countries' full support of holding an international peace conference under the United Nations auspices, to be attended by all parties involved in the conflict. They also called for the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 constitute the basis for the conference.

Arabs forecast surge in protests 9 Palestinian youths wounded in 5 separate clashes with Israelis

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops shot and wounded nine Palestinian youths Tuesday, two of them seriously, in five separate clashes that erupted in the occupied West Bank, Arab news reports said.

The worst reported clash was in the remote village of Asira Al Shemaliya near Nablus where soldiers entered to conduct an early morning search-and-arrest raid. The army confirmed the incident, saying five Arabs were injured there by live ammunition and rubber bullets. Other reports were being checked, the army said.

In another incident, Israeli police sealed off the main commercial boulevard of East Jerusalem and forced merchants to shut their shops after an Israeli bus was stoned there, witnesses said.

The violence came as Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir headed to the United States amid differences with the administration of President George Bush over how to proceed in Middle East peace efforts.

An Israeli public opinion poll gave Shamir a measure of backing on the eve of his meetings with U.S. leaders, showing he had gained in popularity over the past year.

Asked last month about how well Shamir was doing his job, 56 per cent of 1,100 Israeli men and women surveyed replied "good" or "very good," the Davar daily reported.

Only 48 per cent gave these responses in June 1988, added the newspaper. The poll had a margin of error of plus or minus 3 per cent.

It also showed Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, a leader in the Labour Party that is the chief rival to Shamir's Likud Bloc, was Israel's most well-liked leader. Rabin was rated as doing a good or very good job by 63 per cent of those questioned, the newspaper said.

Other Israeli newspapers headlined Bush's remarks Monday in Washington saying he hoped to see an end Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.



Palestinians rebuff to U.S. requests and vow to continue protests in the occupied territories.

In a front-page analysis, the Yediot Ahronot daily said it pointed to a "deep controversy" developing between Israel and the United States.

A Shamir aide interviewed by army radio said he did not expect the Israeli leader would bridge these and other policy differences during his talks in Washington Thursday.

"I don't think they will succeed in persuading us to stop the settlements," cabinet minister Roni Milo said, referring to the Jewish enclaves Israel has built in the disputed lands despite U.S. opposition.

In the clash in Asira Al Shemaliya, about seven kilometres north of Nablus, troops opened fire on protesters, seriously wounding a 16-year-old and an 18-year-old boys in the chest, Arab news reports said.

Three other youths reportedly suffered moderate gunshot wounds and four were injured by a rubber bullet, officials at Al Irtihad Hospital in Nablus said.

Israeli Radio said soldiers entered the village early Tuesday to clear roadblocks and "restore order."

An army spokesman said troops were conducting an "initial operation," which usually means searching for and arresting suspected protesters. He said five Arabs were injured in an ensuing clash.

Four other youths were wound-

ed in four separate clashes that ensued in Balata refugee camp, Jenin, nearby Yabed and Tul-karem, Arab reports said.

East Jerusalem's Salaheddin Street was cordoned off after an Israeli bus was stoned during morning rush hour traffic. After the stoning, police ordered shops to shut down for several hours, witnesses said.

In related developments, police have arrested a Jewish settler from the West Bank town of Hebron on suspicion of shooting a 30-year-old Palestinian during a confrontation last Thursday, the Al Hamishmar daily reported.

The Palestinian man died of his wounds on the following day. Meanwhile Israeli sources said Tuesday that hundreds of detainees will be released "as a goodwill gesture" during Shamir's U.S. visit, but Palestinians forecast a surge of violence.

The sources said the army would free about 150 detainees from Gaza and several hundred from the West Bank. Some 1,000 Palestinians are held without trial in harsh conditions at the Ketzioh Desert prison camp in Israel.

The sources said the prisoner release, as Shamir begins talks with the Bush administration Wednesday, would be accompanied by an easing of curfews in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and more talks with local leaders.

Palestinians said the meetings were meant to foster the illusion that Israel can find local negotiating partners to end the nearly 16-month-old Arab uprising without talking to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Some Palestinians have been summoned to meet Israeli authorities, leaving them no choice but to attend.

Palestinian activists promised more protests to show President Bush the revolt would continue until it attained its political goals.

"The Palestinians are sending a message and they are telling Bush back in Washington that the situation will not be tolerated and the American ambivalence should be settled," said Ibrahim Dakak, head of the East Jerusalem Arab Thought Forum.

"The message is very clear. It is high time to end the occupation," he told Reuters.

The sources said other Israeli gestures would include returning to mosques loudspeakers confiscated on grounds that they were used to incite unrest, reopening mosques in Gaza closed on "security" grounds and opening alleys sealed after protests.

Israeli officials would allow more family reunifications for Palestinians whose relatives have been barred from residing in the occupied territories, and several prominent Palestinian activists have been allowed to go abroad, they said.

Mubarak defends scope, pace of Egypt's economic reforms

WASHINGTON (AP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak defended the scope and pace of his nation's economic reforms Tuesday and told members of Congress that Egypt needs continued high level U.S. economic assistance.

Senate Democratic leader George Mitchell described the 90-minute private meeting between Mubarak and 15 senators as "very beneficial and fruitful" but said commitments on the aid issue were neither sought nor given.

Both Mitchell and Senate Republican leader Bob Dole said senators told the Egyptian president that the United States must keep the large U.S. budget deficit in mind in dealing with all requests for economic and military assistance.

Mitchell said senators appeared favourably impressed with Mubarak's description of Egypt's economic reform programme, including the reduction of subsidies on a number of consumer products and revisions in the country's tax structure.

"Obviously every national leader confronts the same general problem of the pace of economic reform," Mitchell said. "We confront a similar problem in dealing with our budget deficit."

On another subject, Dole said Mubarak flatly denied reports that Egypt intends to acquire chemical weapons and said he was "quite angry about being unhelped in" with other nations, which are believed by the United States to be ready to produce

such weapons. Mubarak met Monday with President George Bush, who said he has set as U.S. goals in the Middle East an end to Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza and fulfillment of political rights for the 1.2 million Palestinian Arabs who live in the territories.

Bush also reaffirmed a U.S. commitment to Israel's security and said all the goals were shared by Egypt.

The statement appeared to put pressure on Israel in advance of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's talks in Washington Wednesday and Thursday. Shamir arrived in New York Tuesday.

Mubarak, answering questions at a dinner Monday night, said he was not asking the Bush administration to pressure Israel. "Exercising pressure won't solve anything," he said.

Mubarak, in the second day of his visit, also was meeting Tuesday with House of Representatives leaders, Secretary of State James Baker and Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady.

The Egyptian leader is hoping Congress will approve new weapons sales once they are formally proposed by the Bush administration and that \$230 million in U.S. economic aid will be released. The aid was withheld in March pending reforms in the way Egypt manages its economy which that country must have in place by June.

Bush did not spell out the political rights he seeks for the Palestinians on the West Bank

and in Gaza. Nor did he amplify his call for an end to Israeli occupation of the territories since the Middle East war of 1967.

The president put his position this way: "Egypt and the United States share the goals of security for Israel, the end of the occupation, and achievement of Palestinian political rights."

Bush went on to say that a "properly structured international conference could play a useful role at an appropriate time" in reaching those goals through negotiations.

In Nicosia, Cyprus, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat's chief adviser welcomed Bush's statement as an "important and serious development."

Bassam Abu Sharif said the PLO feels "this will give a real push for peace efforts in the Middle East."

Mubarak has been pushing for a Mideast conference for years. A U.S. official said the Egyptian leader had the end of the year or early 1990 in mind.

"We believe there is a lot of ground that has to be covered before there could be a conference," the official told reporters at the White House. He answered their questions under rules that shielded his identity.

All U.S. administrations since 1967 have said Israel should yield land on the West Bank and Gaza in exchange for peace. But none has specified whether the United States would urge its ally to yield all the territory.

Shamir to resist U.S. pressure on Mideast peace conference

NEW YORK (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Tuesday Israel would resist U.S. pressure to attend an international peace conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"I'm immune to pressure," the 53-year-old Israeli leader told reporters flying with him from Tel Aviv to the United States for a 6-day visit that includes talks in Washington this week on breaking the Middle East peace deadlock.

Aides said Shamir was annoyed Monday, the eve of his departure for the United States, when President Bush cautiously endorsed convening a U.N.-sponsored international peace conference on the Middle East.

"A peace conference is a way to dictate to Israel to accept what it is willing to accept," Shamir said.

The headline premier claims a peace conference — attended by the superpowers, Britain, China and France — as "an Arab plot to force Israel to accept a Palestinian state in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip that would threaten Israel's existence."

An international conference is favoured by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which began a dialogue with the United States nearly four months ago after recognising Israel and renouncing terrorism.

Shamir thought he had squelched the conference idea when it was raised by the Reagan administration, but he denied its resurrection meant a crisis with Washington, Israel's closest ally and supplier of \$3 billion in annual aid.

"What is a crisis? There can always be a disagreement, and

I've said before nothing will be resolved in one visit," Shamir said on Tuesday, adding he would wait to hear Bush's ideas for himself.

The 10-week-old Bush administration, concerned by news film of Israeli soldiers firing on protesting Palestinians in the occupied territories, has urged Shamir to offer new ideas on ending the Middle East stalemate.

Bush is also to meet His Majesty King Hussein later this month.

At least 421 Palestinians, most of them protesters, have died in a PLO-backed uprising in the occupied territories now nearly 16 months old. Seventeen Israelis have been killed.

Washington has urged Israel and the PLO to take steps to ease tensions in the territories.

Lebanese face 4th week of terror

BEIRUT (AP) — Rival gunners traded shellfire across Beirut before dawn Tuesday on the fourth day of non-stop bombardment of the city's residential districts.

A U.S. embassy official said two American officers assigned to the Lebanese Defence Ministry as part of a three-man technical assistance team were evacuated Monday, leaving only one in place.

Police said the clashes overnight killed six people and wounded 18 in east and west Beirut before non-stop shelling that started Saturday dwindled into sporadic exchanges after daybreak.

The latest casualties raised the overall toll to 153 people killed and 499 wounded since March 8, when the current round of hostilities broke out between Gen. Michel Aoun's 20,000 troops and an alliance of Syrian and Druze fighters.

Meanwhile, Syrian soldiers allowed a convoy of four tanker trucks to cross from north Lebanon into the Falangist hinterland northeast of Beirut to provide a power station with fuel oil.

Mohammad Mawlawi, manager of the state-owned oil refinery in the northern town of Tripoli, said the power station would be provided with 1,000 tons of fuel oil in the next four days to "keep it running."

"A total power failure would be disastrous to the whole of Lebanon," Mawlawi said in a statement broadcast by the Voice of the Nation radio.

The supplies were allowed in

after the electricity authority warned that its power station in Beirut's Falangist-held Zouk suburb would run out of fuel oil Saturday, triggering a power failure across most of Lebanon.

The Falangist force of Lebanon radio said Aoun's army gunners Monday scored direct hits on an ammunition depot for the Syrian army in the mountain resort of Abadiyeh, east of Beirut and set it ablaze.

The report, which could not be verified, said the depot also "contained lethal chemical materials which forced the Syrian army to evacuate civilians from the Abadiyeh area."

Despite the relative lull that prevailed over Beirut and the surrounding mountains as of 5 a.m. (0300 GMT) civilians remained huddled in basements and bomb shelters to avoid sudden escalation of hostilities.

A dozen families sheltering in an apartment building basement in the Christian Adonis district dispatched one man to a nearby bakery to fetch bread for all.

"This is the safest way, we will send one of us to buy food for the whole building everyday until a cease-fire is declared and accepted by both sides," Antoine Shedyak, a mechanical engineer, said by telephone.

The independent daily paper An Nahar and other publications front-paged statements from the U.S. State Departments and the European Community calling for a ceasefire in Lebanon.

Kuwait Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al

Sabah, head of a six-man Arab League mediation committee, accompanied by Arab League Secretary General Chadi Kibi arrived in Damascus Tuesday for a settlement of the confrontation.

Meanwhile hundreds of Lebanese fleeing the artillery barrages devastating Beirut are arriving daily in the southern Cypriot port of Larnaca.

Port officials said 412 arrived Monday and 560 Tuesday, on the daily ferry boat linking Larnaca and the Falangist port of Jounieh, 17 kilometres north of Beirut.

The officials, who did not wish to be named, said about half caught outward bound flights, mainly to Western European cities. The remainder obtained visas for a fortnight's stay, the officials added.

The authorities denied visas to only four Lebanese, and sent them back to Lebanon on the same boat, because they did not have any money on arrival, the officials said.

Panayiotis Karfakis, the Greek captain of the ferryboat Larnaca Rose said the situation was "completely calm" at Jounieh, the main port serving the Falangist enclave.

France sent a top-level envoy on a peace mission to Beirut Tuesday while 75 French entertainers and intellectuals requested Lebanese nationality to show solidarity with a country "threatened by death."

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said Jean-Francois Deniau, the vice president of the National Assembly Foreign Affairs Com-

mittee, had been sent to Lebanon to show France's support for Arab League committee efforts to arrange a ceasefire.

Deniau, a centre-right politician and former foreign affairs minister, left for Cyprus Tuesday but it was not known how or when he would reach Beirut.

Foreign Ministry sources said his dispatch follows several days of intense peace efforts by Paris. French diplomats in Washington, Moscow and Damascus have been involved and Foreign Minister Roland Dumas was in contact with Arab League Secretary General Chadi Kibi.

Singer Charles Aznavour, actor Yves Montand and philosopher Andre Glucksmann were among 75 French figures who signed a petition requesting Lebanese citizenship.

They said: "We want to acquire Lebanese citizenship to share, at least symbolically, the fate of a country threatened by death."

Israeli soldier hurt in mine blast

An Israeli soldier on patrol in South Lebanon was injured Tuesday when he stepped on a landmine north of the town of Hasbaya, the army said.

An army helicopter flew the soldier, described as "moderately injured," to a hospital in northern Israeli port of Haifa.

Sources said several organisations hostile to Israel were active in the area on the edge of the Israeli-declared border "security zone," and it was not known who had planted the mine.

PLO welcomes Bush statements

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — A senior Palestinian official welcomed the call made by U.S. President George Bush that Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip must end, but said it was insufficient.

"Words are not enough, they should be followed by clear stands explaining their meaning," said Farouk Kaddoumi, the newly designated foreign minister in the Palestinian government.

"Bush said an end of occupation, and this statement as we understand it means a total Israeli withdrawal from all occupied territories in the West Bank and Gaza Strip," Kaddoumi said at a press conference while on a tour of Gulf Arab states.

After an hour-long meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak Bush said: "Egypt and the United States share the goals of security for Israel, the end of the occupation and achievement of Palestinian political rights."

But he did not spell out the extent of the Israeli withdrawal nor did he elaborate on the term Palestinian political rights. The PLO considers that to mean its right to an independent Palestinian state.

The statements by Bush were "a positive sign," said Kaddoumi, adding: "It is a development in the American political arena and the terminology regarding the Palestinian issue."

But, he repeated, "the actual and practical development has not taken place yet."

He recalled other positive signs stated in the past by American presidents, such as Jimmy Carter's call for a homeland for the Palestinians.

"We in the PLO do not want to be optimistic nor pessimistic, as we are conducting a dialogue with the new American administration and we don't want to express an amateurish stand, because things are not clear yet," he added.

Kaddoumi stressed the PLO insisted on Israel withdrawal from all the occupied territories and reiterated PLO readiness to accept U.N. trusteeship of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip for a transitional stage during which preparations would be made for convening an international peace conference under U.N. auspices.

"We insist on an international conference for peace in the Middle East with the presence of U.N. Security Council permanent members and parties concerned including the PLO," Kaddoumi said. To date, Israel has not accepted such a plan.

Kaddoumi Sunday was designated the PLO's foreign minister at a meeting of the Central Committee in Tunis. He has long acted in that capacity.

Kaddoumi said that the PLO, through the dialogue conducted by the United States with the PLO in Tunisia since December, has been seeking explanation of U.S. policy on Palestinian rights.

Washington lifted a 13-year ban on dealing with the organisation last December after PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat explicitly recognised Israel and renounced terrorism.

"We have noticed a development in the American stand during the Tunis dialogue, but we still look forward to a permanent American balanced stand and not one slanting toward Israel," Kaddoumi said.

Addressing commando operations from South Lebanon against Israel which is holding a buffer zone in the region, Kaddoumi said the PLO has asked Washington to clarify "whether or not it considered Israeli occupation of South Lebanon legal."

The United States backs U.N. Security Council Resolution 508 calling Israel to withdraw from South Lebanon, he noted.

U.N. faces battle to save hungry in Sudan

By Francis Mdlongwa
Reuters

NAIROBI — The United Nations, saying it wants to prevent death on the scale of the Hiroshima bombing, has launched a massive relief operation to try to save millions of people threatened by famine in war-torn southern Sudan.

But analysts in East Africa and even U.N. officials themselves acknowledge that "Operation Lifeline Sudan," which aims to send in more than 170,000 tonnes of food aid in the next four weeks, faces delicate and intricate problems.

"We have had a near miracle to get this far (but) there is a reasonable prospect for success," James Grant, special representative of U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, told a news

conference Monday. He was speaking after sending 20 trucks with 500 tonnes of food to southern Sudan, the first of a series of convoys that U.N. officials hope will ferry 25,000 tonnes of aid from Kenya alone before the end of this month.

In tandem with the Kenya relief operation, the United Nations — backed by several international charitable bodies — is hauling relief supplies by air, land and rail from several towns within Sudan and Uganda. Officials say they also hope to move aid from Ethiopia.

U.N. officials say the food, mainly maize, will feed at least two million starving people whose farming activities have been disrupted by the six-year war.

More than 100,000 people could starve to death unless the

aid is rushed to them this month, they add. "We are dealing with a disaster roughly equal to the disaster of Hiroshima," Grant said, referring to the U.S. atomic bombing of the Japanese city during World War II in which some 218,000 people were killed.

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"We keep on praying that the rains don't come too early as this would make roads impassable for the convoys," he added. "As the U.N. secretary-general said, this is a race against time."

Regional analysts said problems were compounded by deep-rooted suspicion between the Sudanese government and its rebel foes, the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

"Both sides fear each will use this period of movement of relief aid to restock supplies and prepare for a new offensive," an African diplomat in Kenya told Reuters.

The United Nations has said its officials will monitor the movement and distribution of the aid to ensure the belligerents do not move military supplies.

During Operation Lifeline Sudan, launched after tortuous talks spearheaded by the United Nations and involving the SPLA and Khartoum, the rebels and the government agreed to cease hostilities for a month.

Both sides have been at pains to explain that this does not constitute a ceasefire, signalling that any perceived violation of the "month of tranquility" by either side could mark a resumption of the war.

The brutal war has killed tens of thousands of people and sent more than 400,000 others fleeing as refugees into neighbouring countries.

The SPLA, fighting to end what it considers domination of the Christian and animist south by the Muslim Arab north, has in the past attacked aircraft carrying relief supplies saying it suspected government troops of using them.

"Any slight suspicion (by either side) could mean the relief convoys could be subjected to attacks. This could spell real disaster as so many people's lives are dependent on this aid reaching the area now," an aid worker said.

The analysts said the SPLA, victorious in a series of battles for control of key garrison towns in the past two months, was in uncompromising mood and had

only agreed to transportation of relief supplies because of international pressure.

"They have been concerned at their image in the international community. They would not want to be seen to be preventing such a (relief) mission," a Western diplomat said.

Last year more than 250,000 people, most of them children, died in southern Sudan because of the war, drought and hunger before the international community stepped in with aid.

Operation Lifeline Sudan will cost an estimated \$132 million, but so far only \$77 million has been secured from international donors.

"We appeal to all people and the governments to help," Grant said, noting that further delay in donations would complicate the relief operation.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Swedish fund condemns Israel tactics

STOCKHOLM (R) — A Swedish charity has accused Israeli troops of operating a shoot-to-kill policy against children taking part in the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories. A report by Radda Barnen, the Swedish Save the Children Organisation, said: "Soldiers in their use of gunfire have deliberately aimed at children and young people." Furthermore, as the horrifying effects of the army's methods and gunfire have become clear and yet they still continue, one is bound to conclude that the continued killings are deliberate." Radda Barnen's Secretary-General Thomas Hammarberg said in a statement accompanying the report that the actions of the Israeli authorities violated fundamental human rights in an unacceptable way. The report was compiled by a two-man team who visited Israel and the occupied territories last year.

Khalaf says Bush more realistic

BAGHDAD (R) — A Palestinian leader said in remarks published Tuesday that the new U.S. administration under President George Bush was more objective and realistic towards the Middle East crisis than any previous administration. "We in the Palestinian leadership believe that President Bush's administration is the first administration to interact with a new status-quo in the Middle East more objectively than any previous one," Salah Khalaf, also known as Abu Ayad, told the Baath Party newspaper Al Thawra. Khalaf is Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat's deputy in the PLO's mainstream Fatah group. "The recent dialogue between the United States and the PLO was a beginning for an American neutralism, which is a good trend that we encourage." "If the Bush administration continues this trend it can become a basic element in the Middle East struggle and will enable it to present realistic solutions," Khalaf said.

Argentina wants to buy Kfir

TEL AVIV (R) — Argentina is seeking to buy combat-tested Israeli C. II Kfir fighter planes despite a U.S. ban on an identical sale three years ago, Israeli Defence Ministry sources said Tuesday. Visiting Argentine Defence Minister Horacio Jammarena told Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin Monday he wanted to buy the single-seat fighters, the sources said. The Kfir, which can reach speeds of Mach 2.5 — two-and-a-half times the speed of sound — is equipped with American General Electric J-79 engines. Israel needed U.S. agreement to sell military equipment containing U.S. components and Washington, only four years after the Falklands war between Argentina and Britain, refused its permission. There was no immediate indication if the United States would repeat its ban.

Philippines denies spy report

ABU DHABI (AP) — The Philippines ambassador Monday denied a claim by a rebel Filipino Muslim leader that thousands of Filipino workers in Arab countries are spying for Israel. The envoy to the UAE, Isabella J. Astrucillo, issued a statement saying he "categorically denied" the charge which he said was "another malicious propaganda ploy of the MNLF (Moro National Liberation Front) to discredit the Philippines government." Nur Misuari, the MNLF leader, had "no factual basis to what he said," the ambassador's statement added. Misuari, who has led a struggle for independence from Manila of the Muslim-dominated southern Mindanao region for almost two decades, claimed in an interview that Mossad, Israel's secret service, "exploited the general Arab acceptance of the Filipino workforce to recruit them as agents." The interview was published Sunday in the Sharjah-based newspaper Al Khaleej. Misuari said that as many as 10,000 Filipino workers were involved in spying, mainly in the Arab states.

'Israel to start heavy water talks'

OSLO (R) — Norway said Tuesday that Israel had agreed to reopen talks over a consignment of heavy water — which can be used to make atomic bombs — sold to Israel in a secret deal 30 years ago. Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg, now visiting occupied Jerusalem, discussed the long-running dispute with Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens Monday, a ministry spokeswoman said. "Israel has now said it is willing to start a new round of negotiations if this is requested by Norway," she said. Oslo sold Israel 20 tonnes of heavy water, used in the manufacture of plutonium, in 1959 and has repeatedly demanded the right to inspect it. Media reports since 1986 have charged that Israel used it to make atomic bombs. Israel refuses to confirm or deny whether it possesses nuclear weapons. Norway's parliament rejected a compromise solution reached by negotiators from the two countries last summer and told the minority labour government to continue demanding inspection. Stoltenberg has earlier said that Norway might demand the water be returned if Israel refused inspection. According to the terms of the 1959 deal, Norway has the right to inspect the water or recall it. Norway has exported heavy water, also known as deuterium oxide, to 35 countries since it became a major producer in the 1950s. Oslo insists that it should be used for peaceful purposes only and recently banned further exports after a series of embarrassing allegations that consignments had gone astray.

Algerian reactor inaugurated

ALGIERS (R) — President Chadli Benjedid inaugurated Algeria's first nuclear reactor Monday, the official APS news agency announced. It said the reactor called Nur (Light), built with the help of Argentina, would be used only for technical and scientific training and other peaceful purposes in the area of nuclear physics. The APS report gave no further details. The Arab world has shown little interest in nuclear energy as the majority of countries have sufficient oil and gas. The Israeli air force destroyed Iraq's Osirak nuclear reactor in 1981, saying it planned to develop nuclear weapons. Egypt has shown interest in building a nuclear power plant on its Mediterranean coast but plans have been postponed several times.



The hustle and bustle of Egypt's souk

Egyptian secret worth more than diamonds

By Jeffrey Bartholot
Reuters

CAIRO — "I will explain to you now a secret of Egypt worth more than diamonds," said Ali Omran Ali, whispering across a small room of red cushions, low ceilings, and shelves stained with frankincense, rose and jasmine.

Like a small wizard pouring out a potion, he showed how some of Cairo's other perfumers cheat their customers by diluting their product with vegetable oil.

The secrets and traditions of Egypt's ancient alleyways are being corrupted or forgotten as the demands of the modern age clash with the accepted wisdom of the old.

In Cairo's famous bazaars, car horns compete with braying donkeys and young hustlers selling cheap wares steal business from shopkeepers too heavy with years to stir from their naps.

Egyptians have used perfume since Pharaonic times but some of the new perfumers are well-versed in the relative values of corn and jasmine oils. Business is profitable.

"About 50 years ago, there were only about five or six shops selling perfume," said Ali, whose family business dates to the early years of this century.

In the area of the famous Khan Al Khalili bazaar of Cairo's old city, scores of shops have sprung up selling oils pressed from Egyptian flowers and imported from Africa and Asia.

"Now, many shops sell perfumes that just have no meaning. Only a few good merchants sell pure essences to the customer," said Ali. Voices of the bustling crowd can be heard in Ali's second

floor office overlooking a narrow alley of perfume and fabric sellers.

His office, lined with etched bottles of concentrated oil extracts, is filled with aromas from as far away as South Africa and India.

Down the alley and across a four-lane road jammed with traffic and clouded with exhaust fumes, the cobblestones of Al Ghorniya street are now paved over.

Motorcycles twist through the crowd, past piles of plastic sandals and glistening black olives and a woman swinging a brass bowl of burning incense. Dried porcupines are nailed outside a spice shop near a clothes store where polyester dresses hang in the breeze.

In early spring, imported tin-foil signs declare "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year."

Spice sellers, standing behind bags of fragrant seeds, powders and roots, still sell secret concoctions to cure everything from headaches to unrequited love.

Changing fashions have hurt the business of Ahmad Mostapha Hassan, 58, one of two tarboosh-makers left on Ghorniya street and one of only few left in the city.

"In every neighbourhood, there used to be a couple of tarboosh-makers," he said, sitting next to a large brass furnace used to mold the distinctive red hats.

"The police and the army used to wear the tarboosh, but since the revolution, the style has changed. Now they wear a cap or beret."

Hassan said he now sells about 10 tarbooshes every day — as souvenirs to tourists and to Islamic scholars who still wear the traditional red hat under a wrapped white scarf.

Meagre supplies cause hardship in Kabul

KABUL (R) — Bread queues have eased but life for Kabul's war-weary population is still a daily search for meagre food supplies priced beyond the reach of the poor.

With the two main roads supplying Kabul closed, a constant Soviet airlift brings food and other essentials to the Afghan capital and enables the government to feed soldiers fighting rebels.

But what the airlift brings is less than half the 600 tonnes of flour Kabul needs each day, and prices are rocketing in a country devastated by almost 10 years of civil war.

"The flour is so precious that soldiers guard the bakeries. In this beleaguered city, nearly three-quarters of the children are malnourished, many of them doomed to an early death."

Large areas of rural Afghanistan are either held by the rebels fighting the Soviet-backed government or have been devastated by the war, making it difficult to produce farm or meat products.

"The situation is getting worse every day and it is now almost impossible to buy anything. We can only afford bread," a middle-aged woman dressed Western-style told Reuters. She shouted angrily as other shoppers looked on.

"I have 10 children and two or three of them take turns, in front of bakeries to buy bread," said Shirin Aga, a school teacher carrying a sack of potatoes which he has to make last for a month.

"Sometimes, I queue from nine o'clock till midday and the bakery suddenly runs out of bread and I have to come back in the afternoon to wait for bread again."

"I have a family of seven and need to get 15 loaves of bread. But I would be lucky if I got 10," said Jan Ali, wearing a huge Afghan turban and baggy trousers.

Asked how often people ate meat, Jan Ali said: "Once a year," drawing laughter from other Afghans standing in the queue.

Another person said even if somebody bought meat, cooking it would prove difficult because of fuel shortages. "How can I cook when there is neither heating oil nor wood?" he said.

The Afghan capital's muddy squares are packed with shoppers searching for whatever they can afford to buy.

The average monthly pay of a teacher is 6,000 Afghans or \$30 at the unofficial rate. Meat costs 900 Afghans for one kilogramme while heating oil is 400 Afghans per litre.

A small Japanese-made television set is on sale at a government-run store for 80,000 Afghans — twice the highest salary in the country.

The Afghan is pegged at 55 to the U.S. dollar and is dropping in value by the day.

Money-changers sit on sacks of the Afghan currency in the hope of swapping it for hard cash. One dollar fetches at least 400 Afghans and the few Westerners left in Kabul can be seen with huge carrier bags of the banknotes to

pay for meals and taxis.

Afghan businessmen said prices had begun to climb steeply in the past two weeks. The majority poor survive only on bread, whereas for the handful of rich most things are available, including new Mercedes cars on display in shabby showrooms.

Government control

The government has maintained a monopoly on the distribution of flour and sugar. A loaf of bread can be bought for six cents at subsidised prices but often there is no sugar at all, even on the black market.

To make sure people get enough bread, the government doles out flour to bakeries where two or three soldiers stand guard — both to keep public order and to ensure the bakers don't hoard supplies.

The government has introduced stringent anti-hoarding laws to punish unscrupulous traders or customers looking for quick profits.

"Some of the flour the government gave to the bakeries ended up on the black market. So soldiers are there to make sure that all the flour is used for bread on the spot," a government official said.

Kabul's children

Officials say 70 per cent of Kabul's children are malnourished and infant mortality is said to be the highest in the world.



Mujahideen rebels ready for an assault

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 75111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children's programmes
17:15 Programme on plants
17:30 Out of World
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:05 Cairo News Message
18:15 Arabic series
19:00 Local programme
19:30 Common mistakes
19:40 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Programme review
22:10 Wrestling
22:30 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Documentary
19:00 News in French
19:15 Anjourn' bul en Jordanie
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Life with Lucy
21:10 Documentary
22:00 News in English
22:30 The Alien Years

PRAYER TIMES

03:55 Fair
05:15 (Sunrise) Dhuhur
11:38 Dhuhur
15:12 'Asr
18:01 Maghrib

19:20 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetich, Tel. 810740
Assistants of God Church, Tel. 625785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 627480
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terzantina Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 626543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 625726
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
Rainbow Congregation Tel. 822605
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 815017, 821264

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will continue warm and dry and winds will be southerly light to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Amman Min./max. temp. 10 / 25
Aqaba 17 / 32
Desert 8 / 28
Jordan Valley 15 / 30

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 24, Aqaba 30. Humidity readings: Amman 31 per cent, Aqaba 29 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Rami Al Mizawi 894788
Dr. Salah Al 'Isoud 649028
Dr. Othman Mustafa 774024
Dr. Zein Zaghloul 634591
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nouroukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salan pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 649445
Shimciani pharmacy 637660

IRBID:
Dr. Lawrence Badr (—)
Al Sharaf pharmacy (985238)

ZARQA:

Dr. Tareq Hijawi (—)
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630345
Rescue 192, 621111, 637777
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 62209093
Fire Brigade 775121
Blood Bank 943042
Highway Police 65630991
Traffic Police 787111
Public Security Department 650000 / 685111
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Amman Municipality 637055
Complaints 623672
Telephone Information 12
(Directory assistance) 17
Overseas Calls 17
Radio Jordan 774111
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 661101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 773111
Jordan Television 774111
Radio Jordan 680100
Water Authority 815615
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power

Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-52000

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hassan Medical Centre 81381332
Khalidi Maternity, J. Ann 6442816
Akileh Maternity, J. Ann 6424412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsi 6441714
Sunshine Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muasher Hospital 6672279
The Islamic, Abdali 66612797
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6661646
Italian, Al-Muasher 771012
Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf 77511126
Army, Marfa 89161175
Queen Alia Hospital 60224050
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarga Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarga National Hospital (09)991071
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)98732
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Ibn Al-Wafiq Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

09:10 Damascus (RJ)
09:15 Aqaba (RJ)
09:30 Cairo (RJ)
09:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:00 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
10:15 Larnaca (RJ)
10:20 Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)
17:00 Riyadh (RJ)
17:05 Paris (RJ)
17:15 New York, Vienna (RJ)
17:45 London, Geneva (RJ)
17:55 Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ)
18:30 Madrid, Rome (RJ)
19:45 Belgrade, Bucharest (RJ)
00:20 Baghdad (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:35 Cairo (MS)
10:45 Rome (AZ)
12:15 Santa, Jeddah (R)
12:15 Baghdad (KU)
13:00 Kuwait (KU)
13:45 Kuwait (LN)
14:10 Istanbul, Ankara (TK)
15:05 Jeddah (SV)
16:25 Frankfurt (LH)
20:05 Tripoli, Damascus (PK)
21:00 Tunis (TJ)
21:05 Frankfurt, Damascus (LH)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:35 Aqaba (RJ)
10:45 Belgrade, Bucharest (RJ)
11:00 Amsterdam, New York (R)
11:20 Riyadh (RJ)
11:30 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:00 Geneva, London (RJ)
12:15 Calcutta (RJ)
12:45 Kuwait, Dhahran (RJ)
13:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
14:10 Baghdad (RJ)
14:15 Jeddah (RJ)
16:20 Cairo (RJ)
16:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
17:00 Damascus (RJ)
22:00 Bangkok (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

05:30 Cairo, London (BA)
07:05 Larnaca, Zurich (SR)
10:20 Cairo (MS)
11:30 Rome (AZ)

MARKET PRICES

Upstower price in J.S. per kg.

Almonds 700 / 650
Apple 300 / 400
Banana 350 / 300
Banana (Mukammay) 300 / 250
Broad beans 650 / 600
Broad beans 150 / 100
Cabbage 100 / 60
Carrots 160 / 120
Cauliflower 230 / 200
Cauliflower 400 / 300
Dana 550 / 450
Dana 260 / 220
Garlic 300 / 250
Lemon 480 / 400
Lettuce (per one) 100 / 70
Marrow (large) 150 / 100
Marrow (small) 240 / 200
Orange (Stamoud) 420 / 400
Orange (local) 400 / 300
Onion (dry) 200 / 150
Onion (green) 130 / 100
Pepper (hot) 640 / 600
Pepper (sweet) 240 / 200
Potato 340 / 300
Spinach 90 / 60
Strawberry 1400 / 1000
Tomatoes 300 / 240

Yarmouk diversion tunnel completed

AMMAN (J.T.) — Digging of a diversion tunnel for the Al Waddeh Dam to be built across the Yarmouk River near the Syrian border has been completed and the next step will be covering the internal parts of the tunnel with cement, according to an official from the Ministry of Water and Irrigation which is responsible for the project.

The official said that the 920-metre tunnel is being built to divert the water of the Yarmouk River until the \$400-million dam project has been completed.

A contract for the construction of the dam's diversion tunnel was awarded last August to a consortium of Jordanian, Syrian and Italian companies at the cost of JD 2.5 million to be completed in 12 months, and according to the

official the work will be ready on schedule to allow for work on the dam to start by September 1989.

Under an agreement signed by Jordan and Syria in 1987 the Kingdom, heading towards water shortages in the next decade, will use most of the dam's water for drinking or irrigation, while Syria will get 75 per cent of the hydroelectric power generated by the dam's power turbines.

When built the dam would form a reservoir at least six and a half square kilometres in area filled with water gathered largely from flood water, springs and rain water in the Yarmouk River basin.

According to the official, tender and design documents for the dam have been prepared and referred to the concerned author-

ities for approval by late May.

The official said that a second conference will be held in Amman by mid May to raise funds to finance the project which will take four years to complete.

Last October representatives of 15 Arab countries and international organisations held a meeting to discuss means of financing the dam and minister of water and irrigation was quoted then as saying that Jordan hopes to raise at least \$250 million from these organisations to cover part of the cost.

The dam water will be used to irrigate 35,000 dunums of farm land mostly in the Jordan Valley region and will provide an estimated 50 million cubic metres of drinking water for Amman and Zarqa.

Rawabdeh briefs Finns

AMMAN (Petra) — A group of 32 Finnish pharmacists now on a visit to Jordan met here Tuesday with Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh who outlined to them Amman municipality's services and programmes. The group has been invited

here by the Jordanian Pharmacists Association within a bilateral cooperation programme, according to association officials. The group members will spend several days in the country touring archaeological sites and other places of interest.

Jordan, Cyprus talks

AMMAN (Petra) — The executive board of the Arab Organisation for Standardisation and Metrology (AOSM) ended a meeting here Tuesday during which it reviewed a report on the organisation's operations and activities in the past year.

The two-day meeting reviewed the organisation's programmes in streamlining Arab countries standards and specifications in industrial, food processing, energy, electricity, environment and housing matters.

The meeting also discussed a pan-Arab strategy concerning quality control of different materials and manufactured products in the Arab World.

AOSM Director General Mahdi Hannousseh delivered a speech in which he outlined the organisation's programmes to meet the Arab Nation's needs in the industrial fields.

The three-day meeting was attended by board members who include representatives from Qatar, Kuwait, Libya and Algeria.

Italian nurses for the handicapped

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Italian Red Cross Committee has dispatched two of its voluntary nurses to the Al Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped for a period

of three months, the Italian embassy announced.

This is the second team of nurses sent by the Italian Red Cross in the framework of a six-month cooperation programme launched in September 1988.

The programme, co-sponsored by Alitalia, Italy's national carrier, is aimed at assisting the staff of the Al Hussein Society in various duties regarding the treatment of handicapped children.

The Higher Council of Health (HCH) in Jordan expects a shortage of 1,400 nurses in the Kingdom by the year 1995 if the present annual rate of nurses' graduation is maintained, according to HCH secretary Faisal Dahleh.

He said that efforts are being made to increase the number of nurses and midwives through expanding nurse training facilities.

Last November, Her Majesty Queen Noor inaugurated a training institute to turn out much needed nurse tutors and instructors.

OIC announces photo competition

AMMAN (Petra) — The International Committee for the Preservation of Islamic Culture, a committee formed by the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), is organising an international photographic competition in an attempt to expose the richness of modern Islamic culture in a modern way.

The Ministry of Culture and National Heritage has called on all professional photographers and those interested in photography to contact the ministry before the end of May if they plan to enter the competition so that they may obtain the proper application forms and hand in their work before the due date.

The organising committee has made it a condition that participants hand in their original works, that those works be their own and that they be unused in previous competitions. Competitors can hand in a maximum of 10 regular or coloured photos or slides, while the organising committee maintains the right to publish, exhibit or reprint the given photos.

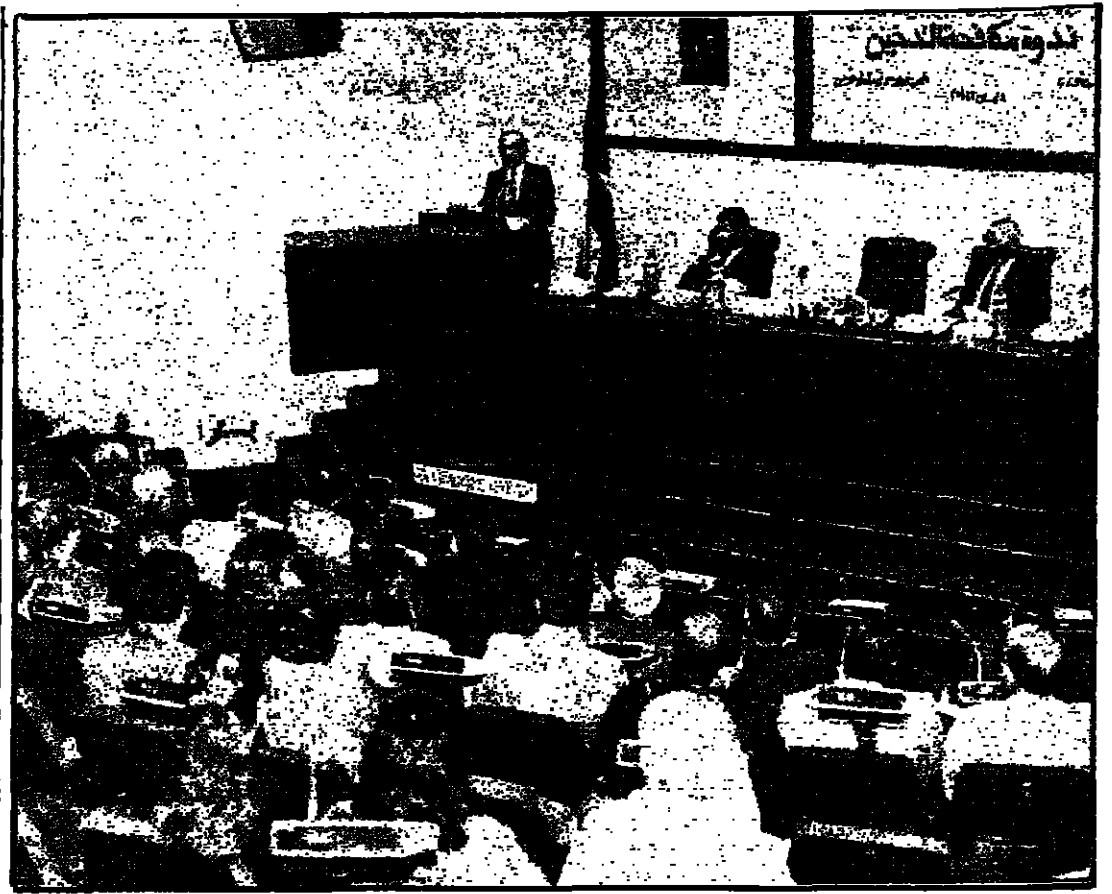
Thirty prizes will be awarded for adults, with the largest prize valued at \$2,000. Another 30 awards will be given for young winners, with the largest prize valued at \$500.

The competition is aimed at finding new excellent methods of exhibiting variety and inherited unity in Islamic civilisation. Results of the competition will be announced in July.

Farewell, welcome

AMMAN (J.T.) — A party was held Tuesday evening at the Amman Intercontinental Hotel to bid the outgoing manager Mr. Gabriel Khawam farewell and to welcome the new manager Mr. Ma'jeed Khalil and his wife. Mr. Basil Jandaneh, chairman of the Jordan Hotels and Tourism Company Ltd. and Mr. Johsh O'Shea, regional chief executive of the Intercontinental Hotels Corporation also held a gala reception attended by a number of ministers, businessmen, media representatives and dignitaries from the tourism sector in addition to managers of various hotels in Amman.

At the end of the reception, Mr. Khawam was bidden farewell by individuals who knew him during his post in Amman, while he welcomed the new general manager whose arrival coincides with the hotel's celebrations of 25 years of service in Jordan.



Minister of Health Zuhair Malhas Tuesday addresses a seminar to combat smoking at the University of Jordan (Petra photo)

From seed to smoke: Malhas campaigns against tobacco

AMMAN (J.T.) — A seminar on combatting smoking in Jordan was held at the University of Jordan Tuesday with the participation of a number of specialists and Health Ministry officials. Several working papers, dealing with diseases resulting from smoking and the effects of smoking on the general public health were reviewed by the participants who included Health Minister Zuhair Malhas.

effects of smoking on health and said that smoking was found to be the cause of cancer, heart and respiratory problems, among others.

He said that not only smokers are affected by the danger of smoking but also those inhaling the smoke, recently referred to as "passive smokers."

Abu Ghazaleh reviewed the university's endeavours to protect non-smokers from the danger as well as guidance and instructions the university has been issuing in this regard.

Smoking, according to Dr. Madi Jaghbeer causes the death of more than a million people annually. Unless drastic action is taken, he said, the situation is bound to worsen.

The seminar came on the eve of Jordan's observation of April 7 as a non-smoking day in implementation of a World Health Organisation call, a practice that has been maintained in the country over the past few years. Smoking is now banned in cinemas, theatres, public libraries, public transport vehicles and other areas.

ACC labourers favoured — Dudin

By Caroline Faraj
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan plans to give priority in employment for non-Jordanians to nationals from the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries in accordance with a set of regulations which will be agreed on among the four ACC states, Minister of Labour Marwan Dudin announced Tuesday.

The minister told the Jordan Times that agreement between Jordan and the other three ACC countries will be reached on new fees to be charged from the workers. At present non-Jordanian Arab workers pay JD 100 annually if they are not employed in

agricultural or nursing fields while non-Arab workers pay JD 300 for their work permits.

In the past year the Ministry of Labour issued 63,050 work permits for foreign workers of whom 40,629 were Egyptians; but there were none from Iraq or Yemen, according to Labour Ministry officials.

According to officials here Jordanian ministries are all preparing reports to be included in the agenda of the ACC prime ministers meeting due to open in Baghdad on April 10. The issue of workers from ACC countries they said will be among the topics.

In the meantime, the Ministry of Interior announced that Arab

nationals from ACC countries are not required to obtain visas for their stay in Jordan but are issued them upon entry into the country. Furthermore, the ministry said the ACC nationals' stay here is unlimited, unlike those from other Arab and foreign countries.

The prime ministers of the ACC countries will meet in Baghdad to discuss administrative issues for the ACC including projects presented by the council's member states through various committees, according to earlier reports in the local press.

The heads of the four countries will meet in Cairo in May to sign detailed agreements on the implementation of the ACC resolutions.

BRITISH AIRWAYS TO LONDON/GATWICK THREE TIMES WEEKLY

British Airways wishes to advise that until Jordan summer time begins May 8/1989 Flight BA 156 will depart at 5:30 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

For reservation call:
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AOSM reviews 1988

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Minister of Industry and Trade Hamdi Tabbaa met here Tuesday with a visiting trade delegation from Cyprus to explore ways of developing trade between the two countries.

Talks centred on means of increasing the volume of trade between Jordan and Cyprus and organising exhibitions and trade fairs in Nicosia and Amman to highlight national products and orient the public on the different products produced by either country, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The two sides also reviewed the existing trade protocol and the prospect of exchanging visits by trade delegations to cover some

issues impeding the flow of trade between them.

On Monday a Cypriot trade fair was opened at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel in Amman. A total of 14 Cypriot firms are displaying samples of their products at the fair ranging from textile products to electric appliances, clothing and traditional crafts.

The trade fair was organised in implementation of the bilateral trade protocol.

The Cypriot delegation, which arrived here on Sunday on a four-day visit to Jordan, is scheduled to meet with other Jordanian officials to discuss trade and economic cooperation.



AOSM Director General Mahdi Hannousseh (centre right) Monday opens AOSM meeting in Amman (Petra photo)

Chamber of Commerce discusses economy

ZARQA (Petra) — The Jordanian Chamber of Commerce held a meeting in Zarqa Tuesday to discuss a number of economic issues and issues related to the chamber.

During its meeting, the chamber approved a report on its activities during the past few months as well as last year's annual report. The chamber also discussed a number of working papers submitted by the chambers of commerce in Zarqa, Irbid, Aqaba, Ma'an and Salt which included a number of trade and economic issues related to transferring expenses of education abroad and increasing the professional allocation for community schools.

The issues discussed also included covering the private sector's needs of foreign currencies and limiting the guarantees period for liquid credits in exports to three months instead of one month, with a possibility of increasing that period.

Other issues covered the verification of certificates of origin for products by other Arab and foreign chambers of commerce in addition to embassies in the countries of origin.

The papers also discussed efforts by the industrial and trading sectors in developing those sectors and professions.

In an opening speech, Zarqa

Governor Eid Al Qataneh said the human and natural resources of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries in addition to their geographic depth and stable regimes would give the ACC added importance on the regional and international levels.

Also addressing the meeting was President of the Chamber of Commerce Mohammad Asfour who said that economic and commerce sectors in Jordan had witnessed modernisation and improvements in the past few months whereby a new law for companies was issued to provide new forms and means of investment in the country.

"These measures were aimed at boosting the national economy and facilitating things for the citizens," Asfour said citing as examples the decision to cancel the licensing of money changers and the banks' offering such services instead.

Head of the Zarqa chamber of commerce Mr. Ibrahim Taki Al Din said the private sector had proven its ability to protect the Jordanian economic achievements and had shown its support of the economy, asserting that the economic policies taken recently were issued after in depth studies were carried out.

He asserted that the private sector was active and working freely and boosting the economic sector of the country.

Arab surgery meeting opens

AMMAN (Petra) — Representatives of Arab health ministries and faculties of medicine in Arab universities opened a meeting at the University of Jordan Tuesday to discuss matters related to surgery and training specialists at Arab hospitals.

The meeting is organised by the Arab board for surgery which is affiliated to the Arab Council for Medical Specialisations (ACMS).

Addressing the opening session of the two day meeting Health Minister Zuhair Malhas outlined

the importance of the ACMS which he described as a forum for unifying medical specialisations in the Arab World and organising their medical training programmes.

The university's Vice President Mahmoud Al Samra also addressed the meeting stressing that the council was one form of unifying the Arab medical education.

The ACMS secretary general told the meeting that the council is currently training Arab specialists in 70 hospitals around the Arab World through 120 programmes.

FOUND: The body of the three-year-old girl who was reported missing on Jan. 13 was found Monday in a desert field. There was something in the well, thinking it was a toy. However, having realised that the body was for a girl, the incident was reported to the police, which in turn rushed to the scene and removed the body. When the girl went missing and after extensive police efforts to locate her, the media launched a campaign appealing to people to



search for the girl. Col. Dustour. One of the neighbours reported the girl was kidnapped, wrote heart-breaking articles appealing to the kidnappers to return her.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An art exhibition displaying paintings by children at the Housing Bank Complex.
- ★ An exhibition entitled "The Tuebingen Atlas of the Middle East" at the Mu'ta University.
- ★ A photography exhibition displaying photos depicting various aspects of life in China at the University of Jordan.
- ★ An art exhibition by Iraqi artist Basim Al Sheikh which includes paintings depicting Jordanian costumes through ages and modern views of Amman at Philadelphia Hall.
- ★ A book exhibition displaying British books on the Islamic world at the University of Jordan.
- ★ An art exhibition by Salma Hamad Al Thani at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ A photography exhibition by Haitham Jweinat at the Professional Associations Complex, Irbid.
- ★ An exhibition entitled "Jazz in France" in which the history of the French jazz is reviewed, with video tapes that can be played upon request, at the French Cultural Centre.

LECTURE

- ★ A medical lecture entitled "Diabetes Patients and Ramadan" by Drs. Ali Misha'al and Mohammad Al Zahiri at the Islamic Hospital — 6:30 p.m.

FILM

- ★ A Spanish film entitled "August Moon" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

Jordan Times

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Tough time Mr. Shamir

SO it came to pass that President George Bush has declared in no uncertain terms during his talks with President Hosni Mubarak that Israel must withdraw from the occupied territories, recognise the political rights of the Palestinian people and prepare itself for an international peace conference that may have to be convened after thorough preparations. Not since the days of former President Dwight Eisenhower did the Middle East hear such clarity and boldness in American thought regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict. President George Bush and his top team of advisers, like Secretary of State James Baker, deserve to be commended for spelling out American conception of peace in the Middle East in the clearest possible terms for all parties to comprehend and take judicial notice of its contents. For the forces of peace in the Middle East, whether on the Arab side or on the Israeli side, the recent American pronouncement on conditions for a settlement will indeed heighten expectations in the region for a real breakthrough in the stalemate peace process.

No less important is the timing of such elucidation of American stance on the Arab-Israeli conflict. Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir was en route to Washington to meet President Bush and his senior aides when news flashes carried Bush's dramatic pronouncements on peace in the Middle East. From the looks of it, Shamir is heading for a real showdown this time in Washington and the prospects are high that he will emerge from his first encounter with the U.S. president with ruffled feathers. Mr. Shamir has been hitherto spoiled beyond all reasonable bounds by earlier treatments that he had been accorded on previous missions to America. He had always got away with what he wanted and had never found some one tall enough to stand up to him. It appears that time has arrived to call a spade a spade in the first official encounter between President Bush and Shamir. Such positive developments augur very well for the peace process in the Middle East. Even Israel stands to profit from this boldness in the American position regarding its conflict with its Arab neighbours including the PLO. Taking a firm stand with one's allies and friends can often do them immeasurable good in the long run. Israeli leaders, like Shamir and Sharon, have demonstrated time and again that they cannot see beyond their noses. It is the duty of the friends of Israel to show them the way to see beyond their noses by talking to them straight and eyeball to eyeball. That is how the forces of peace see President George Bush doing with visiting Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. President Bush might not succeed in the first round but surely he will eventually succeed with perseverance and when President Bush does succeed as is expected, he will go down in history as the American chief executive who triumphed when all others have failed.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

THE Jordanian Arabic dailies Tuesday tackled the King's visit to Baghdad on Monday and his talks with President Saddam Hussein on Arab affairs in general and Iraqi-Jordanian relations in particular. Al Ra'i daily said that the talks were part of the ongoing process of consultations and coordination between the leadership of both countries over important issues and on means of unifying the Arab countries stand vis-a-vis challenges at this critical stage of their history. The Palestine question was at the top of the agenda because King Hussein is keen on rallying all Arabs towards backing the Palestinian people and for the sake of attaining a just and durable peace, the paper noted. It said that for Jordan, the Palestine question is at the top of all priorities not only in view of its importance to the Arabs but also in the light of Israel's intransigence and its escalation of atrocities against the Palestinian people. The Jordanian stand, the paper noted, was expressed in the King's cable to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in which he re-emphasised a fact that Jordan and its people stand behind the Palestinians and their legitimate representative in the quest for attaining peace based on justice.

A columnist in the Arabic daily Al Ra'i Tuesday tackled the visit to Washington by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir who he says has gone to the American capital backed by a unified stand from his people and government. Tareq Masarweh said that Shamir is most probably carrying to Washington a new Israeli version for a settlement of the Arab, Israeli conflict, supported not only by the two main political parties in Israel but also by the Israeli public. In all its wars with the Arabs, Israel was united behind its government whatever its form and regardless of its political orientation, and now in the fight for a settlement. The Israelis are unified and together are carrying a blueprint for a settlement of the Arab Israeli dispute, the writer notes. He says the Arab Nation would like to see a united Arab stand to counter the Israeli position and one that can be presented with confidence and from a position of strength to the American administration in Washington.

Al Dustour daily said that the King's talks in Baghdad served as a new link in the long chain of inter-Arab consultations over matters of national interest. The meetings in Baghdad it said manifest a true picture of cooperation among leaders of the Arab Cooperation Council countries in dealing with common issues and working towards a brighter future for the Arab Nation. The King's visit to Baghdad is the first since the proclamation of the Arab Cooperation Council and assumes importance in view of the range of topics that were discussed, the paper noted. It said that the two leaders directed their attention towards the Palestine issue and the ongoing efforts to find a lasting peace in the Middle East. The Baghdad talks, the paper added, were essential to unify the Arab countries stand in view of the coming developments on the political scene and to bolster solidarity among Arab states in the face of all eventualities.

By Martin Woolcott

TEHRAN IN 1978 was the capital of a kingdom whose rulers had parted company from reality. The dwindling supporters of the Shah included hardliners who wanted to hang demonstrators on street corners, moderates who wanted to open up the regime to previously banned political movements, liberals who wanted the monarch to constitutionally limit his powers. But the vast majority of Iranians sensed that the Shah and his system were doomed and that the only remaining question was the manner of his going.

A not dissimilar atmosphere prevails in Iran today. As then, the supporters of the regime are divided into hardliners, moderates, liberals, and like quarrelsome troops and factions. As then, their solutions are, or are becoming, irrelevant. As then, the majority of Iranians are beginning to lose their belief in the system's permanence, if not yet as was the case in 1978 — their fear of it. And, as then, the cause is that the regime has seriously mismanaged its affairs over a long period and its increasingly incapable of responding to real problems.

Only a few years ago it could

be said that no government in modern Iranian history had been as strong or as securely based as that of Ayatollah Khomeini. It was a government that had come to power as a result of a revolution in which the people at large had participated, and which repudiated, as they did, the break-neck Westernisation that the Shah had permitted. It was a government that, with its extraordinary defiance of both super-powers, had written a definitive and psychologically satisfying end to a century in which Iran had been bullied in turn by Britain, Russia, and the United States. It was a government which, while divided on social and economic policy, had nevertheless captured the loyalty of both peasantry and working class by its emphasis on their difficulties and their needs. The war with Iraq had tapped vast reserves of bravery and sacrifice in the nation and of effort and innovation in the administration. The achievement of fielding huge armies against Iraq while keeping the domestic economy turning effectively was enormous.

But the Khomeini government from the start had one central fault which has over time vitiated its considerable strengths. The politics of the regime centre on

the question of whether any particular policy or set of policies are acceptable in Islamic terms, and this has meant in practice that politicians pursuing moderate or compromise policies have nearly always been outbid by extremists. This is not to identify particular groups or leaders who are "moderates" on all issues, since that is not the case, but simply to observe that in such a polity, the "moderate" line is always vulnerable. Since sane policies inevitably involve some recognition of realities, internal and external, which are repugnant to Islam as defined by the Ayatollah, it has always been possible to destroy a politician simply by putting him into a position of responsibility and then waiting until the pressure for success leads him to embrace a policy that can be seized on as un-Islamic. This has less to do with the role and personality of Khomeini than is often thought. The system itself tends to the extreme, and, indeed, moderates have only prospered when Khomeini has chosen to protect them.

Politician after politician has fallen into the "moderation" trap, from Bazargan at the very beginning to the latest victim, Ayatollah Hussein-Ali Mon-

tazeri, who "resigned" as Khomeini's successor last week. Montazeri's resignation completes the collapse of what had been a half-sensible package of post-war policies. After the ceasefire last July, the government naturally made economic reconstruction the priority. Shortages of essential goods, power cuts, black market crookery, unemployment — all these, if perhaps unavoidable toward the end of a debilitating war, nevertheless constituted a recipe for political disaster as demobilised soldiers returned to the cities in vast numbers.

The solution was to put the economy back on a healthy footing by, among other things, expanding the trade and financial relationship with the West and attracting back some of the huge numbers of highly qualified Iranians abroad. An attack on the widespread corruption that had grown up during the war and to which many clerics had succumbed was another plank in the platform. Finally, a limited political liberalisation was also envisaged, both as a condition for the first two policies and as a means of re-engaging the interest and allegiance of disillusioned Ira-

nians. Already in the bargaining over these policies between clerical factions, contradictory elements had been brought in. Notably, the extremists only agreed to the liberalisation if the purge of opponents already taking place in the last months of the war were to be completed. Montazeri's opposition to the executions of these opponents is one of the reasons that he has now been deposed.

Montazeri opposed the executions on moral but also on practical grounds. The regime was making enemies, he argued in his letters to Khomeini, by executing people whose offences were minor and whose families, many of them hitherto staunch supporters of the government, would now be alienated.

Montazeri's most recent offence was to refuse to endorse Khomeini's death sentence on Salman Rushdie. Undoubtedly his opposition was once again both moral and practical, for it could be easily seen that the Rushdie sentence would derail the whole post war strategy. The laboriously achieved political détente with the West collapsed overnight. And, although Western countries, anxious rivals for

Iranian business, will not operate any kind of economic boycott, they are now even more likely to restrict themselves to short term and low risk deals — just at the time when Iran needs long term projects to restore and develop its industries and infrastructure. As for those qualified exiles, it can easily be imagined that if any of them had been contemplating a return home, the Rushdie affair will have warned them off.

Finally the affair has led to a complete reversal of the liberalisation tendency, a reversal of which Montazeri's resignation is the symbol.

And there may be one more blow coming that could have a shattering effect, if the Lockerbie investigations lead to the conclusion that some element within the government was responsible for the Pan-Am bomb.

In any case, the bankruptcy of the regime inevitably recalls the similar nullity of the Shah's government in its last months. Perhaps there is some way that the Iranian clerical regime can rebuild the strength it once had and which it needs if it is to have any chance of surviving the Ayatollah's death. But it is hard to see what it is — The Guardian.

Debating the state of nation

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Considered to be the "think tank" of the Arab World, the Arab Thought Forum (ATF) last week grappled with the dilemmas facing the Arab World and sought to pinpoint appropriate solutions for the region.

Three prominent participants in the ATF deliberations shared their ideas and what they see as possible solutions to the Arab World's predicament. They discussed the report submitted to the ATF on the status of the Arab Nation in 1988 and spoke about Arab unity from a different perspective and about the two main topics of the ATF meetings: Democratisation and political pluralism.

The report, compiled by the ATF and the Cairo-based Centre for Political and Strategic Studies at Al Ahran newspaper, is mainly an overview of Arab achievements in 1988. The report describes the situation in the Arab World from 1975-1988.

Those 12 years are marred by the outbreak of civil wars in Lebanon and the Sudan, the eruption of the Gulf war, the escalation of the conflict between Morocco and Algeria and saw Egypt being shunned by the Arab World for its separate peace treaty with Israel, according to the report.

The report goes on to highlight the Arab World accomplishments in 1988: the escalation of the intifada in the occupied Arab territories, the proclamation of a Palestinian state, the start of the U.S.-PLO dialogue, the victory of Iraq in the Gulf war, the return of Egypt to the Arab fold, Jordan's severing of legal and administrative ties with the West Bank, Moroccan-Algerian reconciliation, the improvement of relations between Libya and Chad, and between Sudan and Somalia, the establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) and the Arab Maghreb Union, the convening of an Arab summit in support of the intifada and the beginnings of "democratisation" in some Arab countries.

Simmering problems

The report refers briefly to the simmering problems in the region such as the civil wars in both Lebanon and Sudan, the continued Israeli occupation of Arab land, the deteriorating economic situation in the Arab World and the issue of human rights.

In concluding their report, the authors contend that the development in 1988 were significant in reversing the negative trends that persisted in the Arab region for the past decade.

The participants interviewed by the Jordan Times were less optimistic.

University of Kuwait professor of philosophy Ahmed Al Rabe considers the report to be descriptive rather than analytical. He thinks it praises Arab summits as successful.

To Al Rabe, the success of Arab summits does not depend merely on them being convened, but on the "implementation of their resolutions."

He believes that the report was researched and written from a Western perspective. "We are talking about 23 Arab countries with Israel in their midst, the Iran-Iraq war, oil prices and lack of development. Our situation differs from other countries... if in the West (the situation) is clear, ours is very difficult."

He thinks that due to the com-

plexity of events in the region, "we can not talk about (the status of the Arab Nation) in a one year period of time. All events are intertwined."

Professor of political science at the Sorbonne in Paris, Ghassan Salameh was also less optimistic about the state of the nation. On Arab cooperation groups, Salameh says: "I do not see any serious ground on which to build councils (just) on economic grounds."

According to him sectorial studies and long term political will are necessary for the success of Arab cooperation groups. He does, however, point out that the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) is "more impressive" on the institutional level since studies have been prepared and a permanent secretariat envisaged.

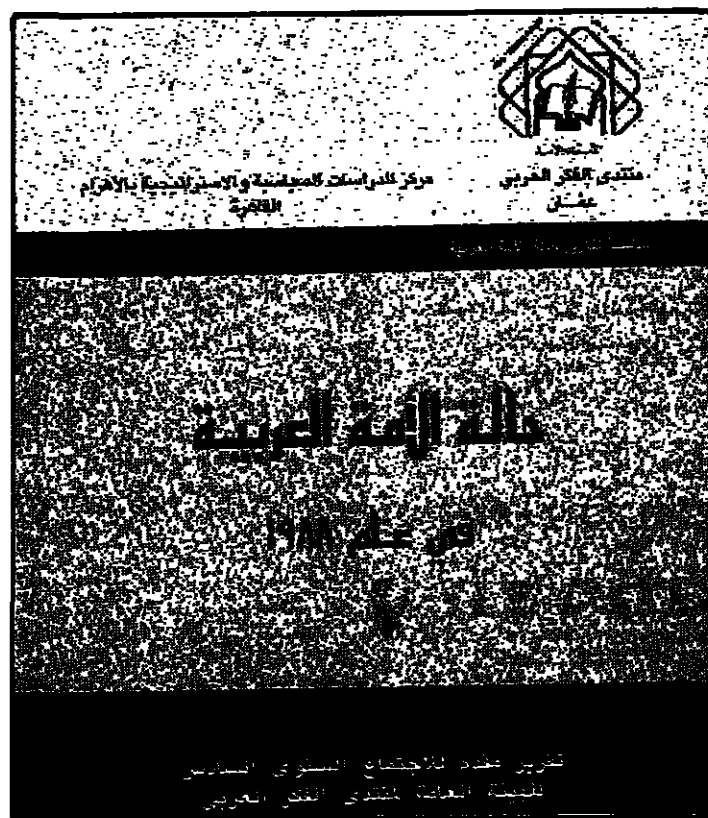
While he also believes that the ACC could have the long term political will, he voiced fear that Arab cooperation groups may be harmed by political hasteness.

Former secretary general of the Arab League, Mahmoud Riyadhi, who declined comment on Al Ahran report, spoke at length on what the success of Arab cooperation groups would entail.

In order to ensure success of the groups, Riyadhi who also served as Egypt's foreign minister sees as important the need for the heads of states to meet "at least four times a year." He considers the continuous meeting between the heads of states over the past year "a new phenomena in inter-Arab relations."

"It is important to continue these contacts in order to remove any misunderstanding which existed in the early days and has always (existed); and to create confidence between the heads of states, making agreements easier to reach."

He sees the cooperation groups as important not only for economic reasons, but also for inter-Arab relations. "The cooperation councils are mainly political."



New Arab unity

He says that although the Arab World's goals are similar to those in the 1940s and 1960s — Arab security and Arab Unity — the practical way to achieving these goals is not through the creation of one Arab nation or one Arab stand, but through cooperation and an "agreement on unity of action."

It was an agreement on "unity of action," Riyadhi predicts that the strength of the Arab World combined would be "at least three or four times the strength of the Arab World."

"We are not saying that we should combine our forces to strike at the Israelis, but at least to defend ourselves," he said, citing the Israeli bombing of the Iraqi nuclear plant and the Pales-

Democracy, pluralism

In discussing Arab unity, democracy, the theme of the ATF meetings, could not be overlooked. Al Rabe defines democracy in terms of human rights and the freedom of the press.

"These two elements are essential to any dialogue on democracy, without these two, all other rights are not possible," he said.

Salameh goes further by saying that he saw "a contradiction" between human rights and democracy. "I am disturbed with the current discourse on democracy and the worrying practices in the very countries with the loudest voices on democracy."

He sees three degrees of democratic practices in the Arab World: There are some countries in the Arab World which have advanced considerably on human rights issues and "are ready for organised (political parties) pluralism."

Other countries "are ready for a small opening in terms of a better human rights record and for some political recognition of the traditional economic and social structures i.e. religious institutions and professional unions." While some countries can only "hope to achieve the freedom of political prisoners," and an end to the grave human rights violations, according to Salameh.

Riyadhi, on the other hand, believes that the lack of democracy is the crux of the problem.

"There are written documents in the Arab World which call for democracy, but democracy is not just written, it is a concept which people must work for and must respect." He believes that "one man decisions" taken in many Arab countries can not lead to "real democracy."

Issues in the Arab World are "decided with one word," he says. Achieving "real democracy" will take time, but there is an urgent need to start now, because we can not afford to "wait

another 100 years."

Riyadhi suggests the formation of political parties and the holding of elections as first steps towards creating a leadership representing the people and "ending the situation whereby one person has the final word."

"It will be a struggle, but no one will give us our rights as a gift."

However, Riyadhi does not believe that the Arab countries should base their models only on the European model of democracy. "In the Koran, the concept of Shura is a basis for democracy. These Islamic values do not contradict with democracy or Western democracy and are appropriate to our culture," he said, stressing that these values and the Arabic culture should be incorporated into any model of democracy for the Arab World.

Salameh foresees the Turkish model as a favourable model for Arabs to follow.

"In the Turkish model the head of state represents the special relationship with the armed forces, while there is real pluralism on the government level with free elections and a possibility for the opposition to form a government if they win the elections."

Al Rabe also supports a similar model whereby the state is controlled by a constitution and the people are equal citizens, loyal to the state.

He said that the state must recognise that its society is comprised of several minorities and religions. "With this awareness, we can enter political pluralism."

Riyadhi further elaborated on political pluralism, saying that although most Arab states are made up of several communities, this factor does not imply that "they can not have some form of autonomy, while at the same time participating in the political process within the state."

He does point out that if the parties are based on religion, "there will be internal conflicts," and suggests national parties as a means to avoiding such conflicts.

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A tribute to Indira Gandhi

A London ceremony honoured the late Indian prime minister, Indira Gandhi, during the birth centenary celebrations commemorating her father, Jawaharlal Nehru. The occasion was the unveiling of her sculpture at India House.

By Patricia Jellicoe

LONDON — It was on this day, January 30 in 1948, that Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated, but four decades on the day was marked in London with the unveiling of a sculpture of Indira Gandhi by Krishna Rasgotra, the Indian high commissioner in Britain since autumn 1988.

Created by the Kerala-born Indian sculptor, K.S. Radhakrishnan, 32, the sculpture was unveiled in the company of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and distinguished friends of India at India House. Though the High Commissioner remarked that with her vital and vivid personality, "one cannot imagine Indira Gandhi as a statue!" the bust gives a feeling of the strength that the former prime minister and

stateswoman no doubt possessed.

Radhakrishnan won a national cultural scholarship given by the Indian Ministry of Education to work under the well-known sculptor Saybari Roy Chowdhury, and was given the award for sculpture at the annual exhibition of the Birla Akademi of Arts and Culture, Calcutta, followed by the award of a research grant fellowship from the Lalit Kala Akademi to work at Garhi Studios, New Delhi. He has participated in many exhibitions and his commissions, both public and private, include the National Gallery of Modern Art and the Lalit Kala Akademi and Hudeco in New Delhi, and Bharat Bhawan in Bhopal.

As Rasgotra said, India House, designed by Sir Herbert Baker

using skilled Indian workmen, was a fitting place for the sculpture. For years London was the second home for the Nehru family.

Rasgotra said it would no doubt have given Mrs. Gandhi much pleasure to have the British prime minister unveil her sculptured bust. He spoke of her humanity and compassion for all while maintaining a firm leadership. Her wish was to unite India "not by the sword but by understanding," and he quoted her saying in 1983: "Freedom is basically a spiritual value; the function of politics is to make it a living fact. To me that is the only political goal worth pursuing." He continued by recalling that it was said she was the only man in her cabinet. He felt that God is usually on the side of women, "especially if they are prime ministers!"

In her reply, Mrs. Thatcher, after thanking the sculptor and looking forward to many more occasions during this centenary year of Pandit Nehru's birth, ac-

cused the High Commissioner of "having stolen her best line!" But — of Mrs. Gandhi, "the only man in her cabinet," — she said with a smile that it was an outrageous remark. An English writer and poet who loved India, sharing his love with many in Britain, warned us, we should remember, that "the female of the species is more deadly than the male!"

Mrs. Thatcher then turned to her memories of Indira Gandhi and her first visit to India in 1973, saying how deeply she admired her as a stateswoman and valued her as a friend. They both shared the paradox, to which the high commissioner had referred, that though so warmly human, Mrs. Gandhi could be firm and fearless. Both she and Indira Gandhi understood and felt the loneliness of a prime minister.

In Mrs. Thatcher's view, India would not be what it is today without the firm structure built up in so many fields — in trade, the sciences and others — during Mrs. Gandhi's 16 years as prime minister.

Speaking of the tragedy of losing people to terrorists and assassins, Mrs. Thatcher said that there must be an unceasing fight against terrorism of any kind — those who kill and those who supply the killers. Mrs. Gandhi had called her after the Brighton bombing and was herself to die so shortly afterwards.

Ms. Daphne Park, principal of Somerville College, Oxford, where both prime ministers had been undergraduates and of which both were honorary fellows, spoke of the many distinguished undergraduates Somerville has had from India, and of the Somerville Trust which enables others to do further research in India while helping those from India while they are at Somerville.

Dr. Kathleen Raine, the poet, gave her thoughts on the "eternal strength of the spirit," quoting poets and philosophers through the centuries. She had not known Indira Gandhi, she said, but had been immensely moved to be invited to meet in India others of identical interests, to discuss and share in the search for the values of the spirit — Academic File



British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher with Indian High Commissioner Krishna Rasgotra at the unveiling of the Indira Gandhi statue in London's India House.

Japan begins cinema-quality telecasts as U.S., Europe lag

By David Thurber
The Associated Press

TOKYO — As millions watched telecasts of a national high school baseball tournament last week, a few hundred special sets showed off Japan's lead in a striking new generation of television technology.

For an hour a day during the popular 10-day tournament, Japan's public television network, NHK, broadcast via satellite to the special sets with "high-definition TV," producing wider, crystal-clear pictures with sound quality similar to compact discs.

"Because of the extra screen width, a broadcast of a baseball game can show the pitcher winding up to throw to a batter and runners on first and third base, all in the same picture," said Sosuke Yasuma, NHK's director of high-definition TV programmes. "TV cameramen will need to learn how to compose their pictures."

Officials say the system also will revolutionise other industries.

Some movie makers already use the NHK system because of its advantages over film in speed, ease of editing and adaptability to special effects. In publishing or graphic design, editors could use video monitors to shift colours or other elements in HDTV-recorded images.

NHK next plans to broadcast a two-week sumo wrestling tournament in May, then begin regular hour-long daily HDTV transmissions in June.

Japan's lead

Although few people will be watching — the monitors now cost about \$60,000 and only a few hundred have been made — the broadcasts illustrate Japan's lead

in the race to commercialise HDTV technology.

At stake are potential world HDTV sales estimated at \$80 billion by 1995, NHK says.

In addition, analysts say countries that don't develop HDTV industries will have difficulty competing in a wide range of future commercial and military products. HDTV ties together a variety of advanced technologies, including digital image processing, high-capacity satellite transmission, fibre optics and micro-electronics.

Because of potential military applications, the U.S. Department of Defence announced in December a \$30-million programme of grants to develop an American HDTV system. But U.S. industry officials and an increasing number of congressmen call the programme too little, too late.

"The United States should have gotten into this long ago," said John Stern, representative in Japan of the two largest U.S. electronics associations. "Japan has already commercialised this technology, while the United States today is approximately six years behind."

Engineers at NHK began in the 1960s to develop an improved TV system they hoped would unify the world's seven current TV standards.

Since then, under NHK leadership, Japanese companies reportedly have spent more than \$700 million on HDTV development, with relatively little government involvement.

But at a 1986 conference on adopting the NHK system as a world standard, European nations objected. Japan's system is not compatible with existing TV equipment and cannot carry more

than a few audio channels — a disadvantage in multilingual Europe.

In a crash programme, European companies then designed and produced a separate HDTV system in about two years. The European Economic Community (EEC) seeks to begin consumer HDTV equipment sales and satellite broadcasts by 1992.

"We still wish Japan would see the wisdom of a single world system based on the European standard, rather than trying to impose a non-compatible system on the rest of the world," said Michael Lake, spokesman for the EEC in Jordan.

"I can't overemphasise the political and industrial importance that the European Community is attaching to a strong European basis for HDTV," he said.

Maurice Bourene, the EEC's science and technology attaché in Japan, said that with Europe's separate system, "even if the Japanese develop equipment for the European market very quickly, they will need a licence, and it's not clear that they can get it. So it may be possible (for European makers) to keep hold of the

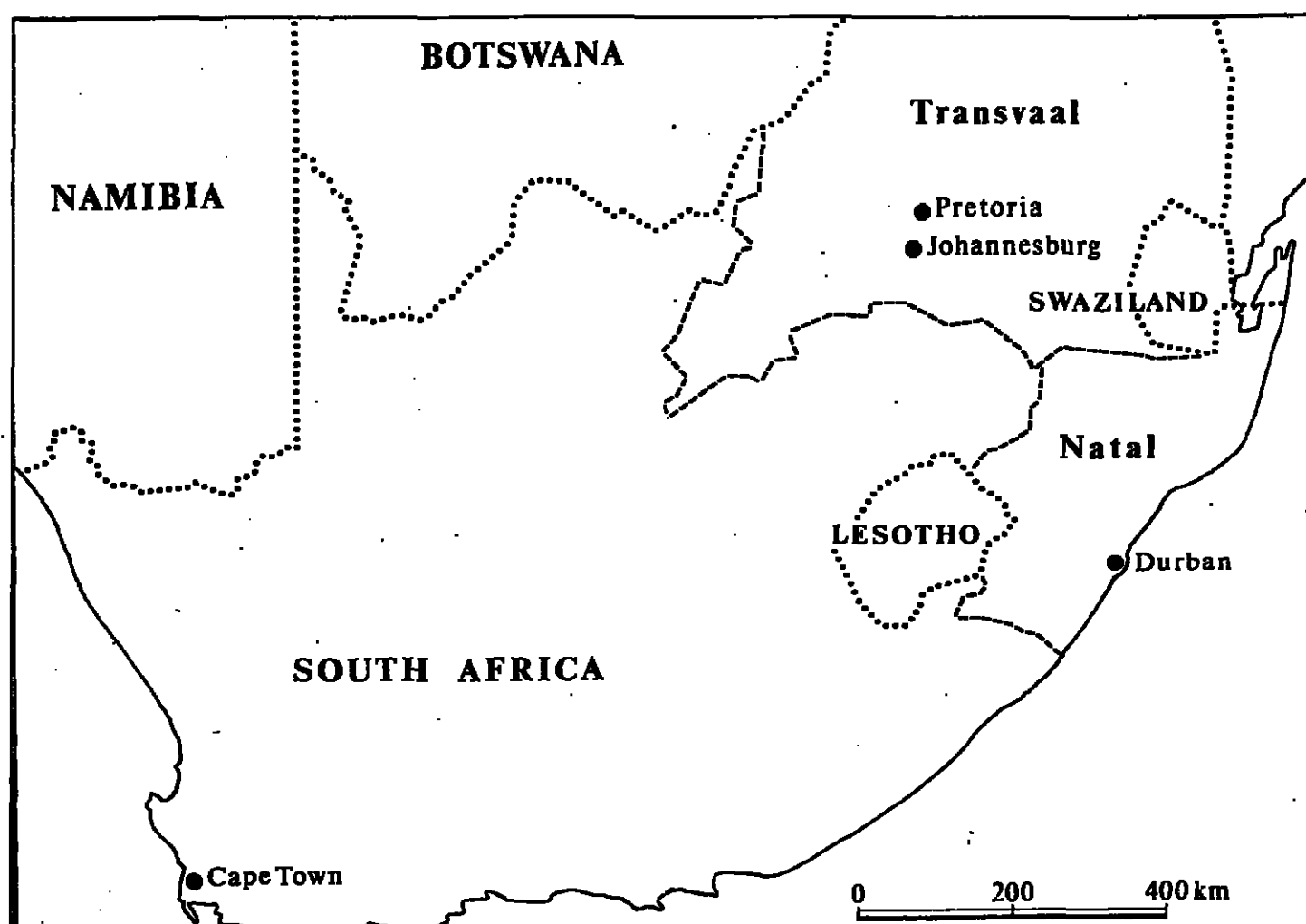
European market."

South Korea recently announced it will spend about \$150 million including \$90 million from private companies, in a four-year effort to develop an HDTV industry.

But while European and South Korean companies have remained strong in consumer electronics, American companies would need to rebuild an industry they largely abandoned or sold to foreign firms. Except for Zenith Electronics, all major U.S. television factories are owned by overseas companies.

The U.S. government also is still discussing final technical standards for an American HDTV system. Last summer, the federal communications commission set initial standards incompatible with both the Japanese and European systems.

While HDTV will be broadcast in Japan and Europe directly from satellites on special frequencies, the FCC standards say U.S. HDTV broadcasts must use current channels and be viewable on present televisions. Special HDTV monitors would be necessary for improved picture quality.



'Land of birth' has become the 'poison province'

By Eddie Koch

Attention usually focuses on South Africa because of apartheid. But there is also other reason for concern — in the growing abuse of the environment, whether the use of herbicides, air pollution or traffic in rhino horn and ivory.

JOHANNESBURG — When a group of Portuguese explorers sailed past the eastern shores of South Africa on Christmas day more than 400 years ago, they named the stretch of white beaches and emerald green hills Natal — the "land of birth."

Today, Natal, smallest and most scenic of South Africa's provinces, is the focus of a bitter controversy surrounding the widespread use of Agent Orange-type herbicides and their possible links with the high rate of deformed babies born in the area.

The uproar coincides with a series of scandals over air pollution and acid rain — as well as alleged involvement by South Africa military men in rhino horn and ivory poaching.

Vast sugar-cane plantations and forestry estates cover the hills of subtropical Natal and their owners make uncontrolled use of weed-killing chemicals that were used during the Vietnam war to manufacture the notorious defoliant, Agent Orange.

Designed to destroy the jungle that gave cover to guerrillas, Agent Orange was a 50-50 mixture of chemicals known as 24-D and 24-D. After the war, in which more than 4 million litres of the substance were dumped on the country from B-52 bombers, scientists and doctors began reporting cases of babies being born with stunted legs and arms, tiny hearts and lungs, and other deformities.

An international controversy, fed by massive civil claims in the U.S. by Vietnam veterans as well as medical evidence that the defoliants may cause skin and liver cancer, led to bans on 24-T in most industrial countries and restrictions on use of 24-D.

But in South Africa, herbicides containing 24-D are used without

restriction — except for a voluntary ban in a few small farming districts — and large supplies of 24-T based weedkiller are apparently still available in the forestry industry.

An alliance of concerned farmers, environmentalists and scientists known as Chemwatch has produced a dossier linking the chemicals to a spate of recorded birth defects in Natal — and they believe these may be only the tip of an epidemiological disaster. Residents in the province frequently complain of coughs, asthma and chest discomfort when the wind blows from the direction of "sugar-cane" plantations near their homes and local doctors routinely ascribe the problems to the effects of herbicide spray.

Chemwatch's fears have been fanned by the discovery of vast amounts of both 24-D and 24-T in rain and dew samples in Natal's Tala valley. Last year, the organisation leaked to the press results from a government testing station in the valley which showed rain samples containing 1.4 milligrams of 24-D per 1,000 litres of water — a million times more than the amount needed to cause damage to vegetable crops.

Some months later Chemwatch claimed that samples of 24-T found in the rainwater contained amounts 10,000 times the limit considered safe for vegetable crops in the U.S.A.

"In effect this means that many areas of the province were hit by rainfalls of diluted Agent Orange," said a scientist working for the environmental group.

The organisation has launched a campaign ban on their use. At the same time, Roger Evans, a member of Chemwatch who farms vegetables near the Tala valley, has launched court proceedings to have the manufacture

and use of the chemicals, as well as related herbicides, stopped in South Africa.

In a David and Goliath contest that could become one of South Africa's largest cases of civil litigation, Evans has cited 16 local and multinational corporations as being responsible for formulation of the herbicides which he says have caused millions of dollars worth of damage to vegetable farmers.

Thus far the government has refused to impose bans. Its Interdepartmental Advisory Committee Safeguarding Man against Poisons says the types of 24-D used in South Africa contain safe levels of dioxin, the toxin blamed for ill-effects of Agent Orange. No ban will be imposed on 24-T, it says, "because supplies on the South African market are being rapidly depleted because international manufacture of this herbicide has been terminated."

But recent medical studies have suggested dioxin, a by-product of 24-D and 24-T, may not be the only or the most dangerous cancer-causing substance produced by the herbicides. There are also indications that large supplies of 24-T are still available in South Africa.

The row over Agent Orange pollution, which has led Natal to be dubbed "the poison province" in the media, coincides with a spate of other environmental scandals in South Africa.

The U.S. government has charged two South African soldiers, who were trapped by undercover agents smuggling rhino horn into the U.S., with complicity in an international smuggling ring. Richard Luiman, the head of the ring, has pleaded guilty and has indicated he will reveal details about the role of SA Defence Force (SADF) personnel in rhino-poaching in Angola and Namibia as the case proceeds.

The U.S. move comes in the wake of claims by the Monitor Consortium, an alliance of American environmental groups, that thousands of elephants have been

slaughtered by UNITA rebels in Angola so that they could pay in ivory for military aid from South Africa.

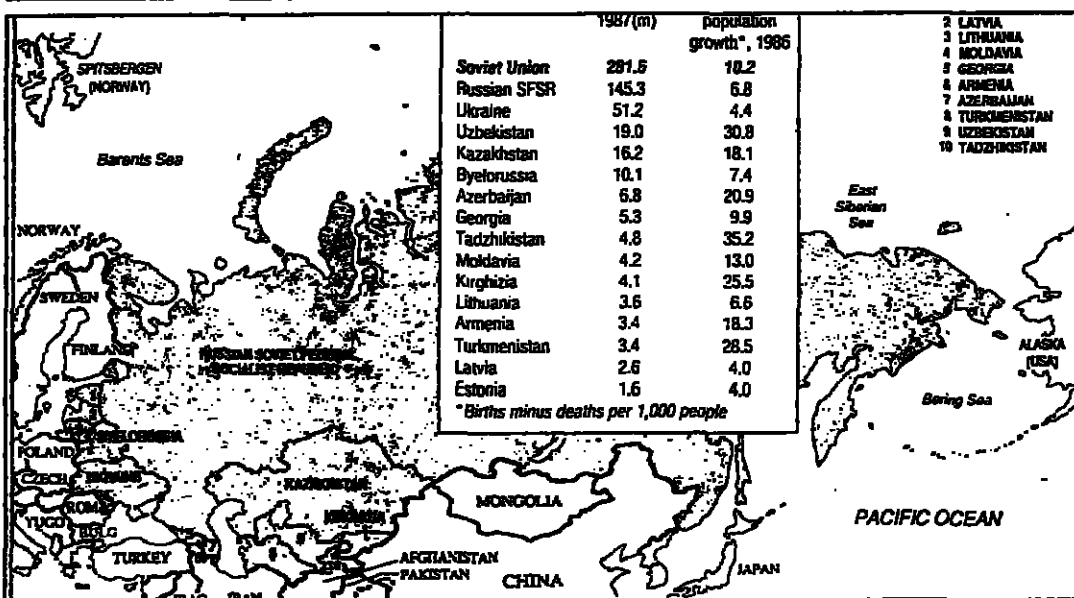
An internal inquiry by the SADF says it found no evidence to back the claims. But local conservative groups, traditionally politically conservative, have taken the unusual step of calling for an independent investigation of the allegations and have supported the U.S. requests for the soldiers to be extradited so that they can stand trial.

Ecological controversy in South Africa is also growing around revelations that vast quantities of sulphur dioxide pumped into the atmosphere by coal-burning industries and power stations in an area known as the Eastern Transvaal Highveld have created one of the most polluted regions in the world.

A recent report by two independent consultants says 12 power stations and a huge petrol-from-oil plant in the region are pumping 57.5 tonnes of sulphur dioxide per kilometre into the air each year. In contrast, the country usually held to be most at risk from such acid rain-producing gases, East Germany, records only 30 tonnes of sulphur dioxide per square kilometre per annum.

Medical researchers have found decreased levels of chest functions, especially among the elderly and children in the towns of Eastern Transvaal as well as the heavily industrialised zones south of Johannesburg. Last year the pollution sparked a demonstration by normally conservative housewives against the effects of sulphur pollution on the health of their children.

Most anti-apartheid groups have, until now, focused their energy and resources on the more burning issues of racial exploitation. Preliminary indications are, however, that the combined effects of the recent ecological controversies may create some green awareness in fighting for the birth of a new society in South Africa — Panos.



Tadzhikistan: a cup of tea for medicinal purposes

By Vera Rich

LONDON — The Tadzhikistan republic in Soviet Central Asia is particularly well-endowed with medicinal herbs, and has a tradition for preparing them that dates back many centuries.

Some of the traditional formulations, indeed, are attributed to the great medieval Islamic scholar Avicenna. Production has recently been put on a small industrial basis.

A factory has been established in north Tadzhikistan to produce medicines based on plantain, eglantine, camomile, flax, aloes

and other local products.

Soviet policy under Mikhail Gorbachev encourages new initiatives: although the factory is formally affiliated to the "farmhouse" enterprise in Leninabad in the north of the country, it operates on a financially independent basis and profits are expected to increase rapidly.

As an outlet for the new products, a special "fitobar" (literally "plant-bar") tea-house is to open shortly in Leninabad. Its speciality will be syrups, extracts and nectars containing plant-based antibiotics. These are said

to prevent disease and are particularly recommended for people suffering from cardiovascular and gastroenteric conditions and high blood pressure.

The tea-house will be integrated into the local health service. Patients will obtain prescriptions from the clinic in the usual manner, and then instead of having them dispensed at the pharmacy, will take them to the tea-house, to consume the appropriate product in congenial company — there is place for 60 people — overlooking the Syr Darya river — Panos.

Bangladesh: poppy the opium of the people

By Nurul Huda

DHAKA — The poppy plant, the raw material for heroin, is believed to have been cultivated in some areas of the country over the last couple of years, despite being banned.

The marketing of locally produced heroin may have begun in 16 northern districts including Manikganj, which is 60 kilometres from the capital Dhaka.

Poppy plant cultivation began in the northern district of Bogra: an employee of a government

department procured seeds and started cultivation at the office premises on an experimental basis.

The employee said he had got the idea of growing poppy for heroin from television programmes, and then supplied seeds to a large number of people.

Some heroin addicts said they preferred the locally-produced heroin as it was cheaper than imported alternatives. Morphine and heroin are produced through the processing of poppy seeds — Panos.

<p>Cinema</p> <p>CONCORD Tel: 677420</p> <p>A NIGHT ON THE TOWN</p> <p>Performances 3.30, 6.15, 8.45, 10.15</p>	<p>Cinema</p> <p>NIJOUN Tel: 675571</p> <p>AMERICAN FILM WEEK UNTIL FRIDAY 7/4/1989</p> <p>Every day new American film</p> <p>Performances 3.30, 6.30, 8.30, 10.30</p>	<p>Cinema</p> <p>PLAZA Tel: 677420</p> <p>NEW KIDS</p> <p>Performances 3.30, 6.30, 8.30, 10.30</p>
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OPEC seems set to raise oil output

VIENNA (R) — OPEC, benefitting from sharply higher world oil prices, seems set to raise production when the group holds its next full meeting in Vienna June 5, oil analysts and industry observers say.

"We feel they will raise quotas," said Jeremy Hudson, oil analyst at Shearson Lehman Hutton in London.

Analysts were also optimistic about the immediate price outlook: "I can't see a big move down," said Hudson.

Brent (Britain's benchmark and the most widely traded crude) could fall to a low of \$17.50 a barrel in the second quarter (when demand traditionally slackens after the winter)," he noted.

Last November the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) agreed an output ceiling for all 13 members of 18.5 million barrels per day (b/d) for the first six months of this year, ending a period of huge oversupply and slumping prices. Prices have soared some 50 per cent since OPEC reined in overproduction and several non-OPEC producers have pledged to help by cutting exports in the second quarter of this year.

Last week Brent for June delivery traded above \$19 in the European market against lows of \$12 in late 1988.

On Thursday OPEC ended a ministerial monitoring committee

meeting to review the performance of the world oil market, which Hudson described as "very, very encouraging."

Before the talks Kuwait Oil Minister Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah proposed OPEC raise the ceiling to 20 million b/d in the second half of 1989 and that Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) should have higher quotas than other members.

"The comments by the Kuwaiti minister did not damage the balance of the meeting, this is encouraging," Hudson said.

Both Gulf Arab OPEC members are seen by industry sources as overproducing. Both have said their quotas are unfairly low.

OPEC sources said Sheikh Ali was proposing that Kuwait and the UAE should share some 700,000 b/d with the remaining 800,000 b/d divided up amongst the other 11 OPEC members.

After the meeting, Sheikh Ali denied his proposal was even "a suggestion," terming it instead a flexible opinion.

Hudson said statements by the Iran's oil minister, Gholamreza Azadeh, also suggested that an output ceiling increase was on the

cards. "The remarks by the Iranian minister point to a stronger likelihood of a quota increase," he said.

Traditionally, Iran has favoured higher prices, in contrast to other OPEC members such as Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

But Azadeh Thursday said the \$18 a barrel OPEC target price was likely to continue for the rest of this year.

"Iran is making it plain that it doesn't want to see prices running up strongly," Hudson said.

Since oil prices have climbed substantially so far this year in response to healthy demand, and since demand growth is expected to continue, the implication is that Iran is looking to a higher output ceiling to maximise revenues, analysts said.

Geoff Pyne, oil analyst at stockbrokers UBS-Phillips and Drew, also felt a quota increase is likely in June. "OPEC has a problem if it does not raise quotas, as without an increase, there may be a gap between quotas and demand for OPEC oil."

The key question is whether any increase in the ceiling is divided up proportionately or whether some members should receive more than others as the Kuwaiti minister has proposed.

Some analysts believe there is a good case for granting the UAE a proportionately higher increase in order to solve its persistent problem of overproduction. The UAE is estimated to have pumped 1.45 million b/d in February, above its quota of 988,000 b/d. Last June, it said its quota should be 1.5 million.

Indonesian Oil Minister Gijang Kartasmita said Friday: "Ideally (any quota increase) should be proportionate, but some countries have problems and we have the obligation to listen... we must solve the emirate problem if we want a solid ground for OPEC in years to come."

Pyne said he saw a problem for some countries, such as Algeria and Indonesia, if quotas were raised as they might not have the production capacity to fulfil them, adding, "at the end of the day (any increase) will be pro rata."

Gijang denied Indonesia had production problems, saying its capacity was 1.65 to 1.7 million b/d, 300-400,000 b/d above current output. Indonesia has a quota of 1.24 million b/d.

Steve Turner, oil analyst at stockbrokers Smith New Court, thought a deal on quota increases was likely in June. "I wouldn't see a squabble on quotas causing a major breakdown."

The June talks are due to set second-half quotas for OPEC.

Customs officials plan unified system for ACC countries

CAIRO (Petra) — Customs officials from the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries will shortly embark on detailed studies to work out a unified customs system for the four ACC members, according to Fathi Salameh under-secretary of the Egyptian ministry of finance and customs.

Salameh said that a unified system for Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, and North Yemen would streamline matters and issues pertaining to customs that would serve the interests of each of the four countries.

Already Egypt maintains customs agreements with a number of Arab countries designed to promote trade, Salameh noted. Apart from the ACC cooperation in this respect, Egypt has concluded customs agreements with Morocco and plans to conclude a similar one with Tunisia later this month.

Also in Cairo, it was announced that Egyptian officials were considering establishing a permanent exhibition in Amman to display Egyptian products.

A responsible source here was quoted by the Middle East News Agency as saying that such an exhibition would not only bolster Jordanian-Egyptian trade links but would also enhance the march towards economic integration among the ACC member states.

The projected exhibition, the source added, would no doubt orient the Jordanian public on Egyptian national products and so boost trade.

The idea of setting up the exhibition resulted from the excellent results of the first Egyptian trade fair which is being held in Amman at the moment, the source noted.

He said that the Jordanian public has displayed real interest in the Egyptian goods.

Arab Potash Company reports JD 6.8m profit

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab Potash Company (APC) last year realised a net profit of JD 6.8 million ending years of losses, according to an APC annual report published in the local press Tuesday.

The report said that in 1988 the company produced 1,309,627 tonnes of potash most of which has been exported to other countries.

The report said that the APC hopes to pay up its debts and start making good profits for the shareholders by 1990.

It said that, thanks to a rise of nearly 30 per cent of potash products worldwide on an annual basis, the company has been able to produce more and to make real profits.

Almost 1,305,481 tonnes of potash were sold to foreign countries in the past year registering a 6.8 per cent rise over the previous year's sales.

The total revenues, which stood at \$113 million in 1988, are expected to rise to \$130 million in 1989, according to the report.

Japan promises \$4.5b in loans to Third World

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Satoshi Sumita, governor of the Bank of Japan, Monday promised to make \$4.5 billion available over the next few years to help Third World countries out of their debt problems.

The money would be made available by the Export-Import Bank of Japan.

A spokesman for the World Bank said that Japanese authorities have promised its president, Barber Conable, that these loans would not be tied to purchases of Japanese goods, as is usually the case with loans from such government-owned banks.

Sumita made his announcement at a meeting of the Interim Committee of the International Monetary Fund.

Last fall, at a meeting in Berlin, the Japanese said they would be making such loans available but they did not announce a figure. Sumita's announcement Monday was made in the context of proposals by U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady on the reduction of the Third World's debt of \$1.3 trillion.

In addition to reductions of their old debts, Third World countries need new loans for investments that will create jobs and spur production.

Sumita made it clear that the loans by Japan would be granted only in conjunction with the International Monetary Fund and the changes in policies it requires from debtor countries so that they will be in better position to repay.

"I would like to make it clear that our initiative... presupposes that the parties concerned agree to the principal elements of Secretary Brady's proposal," Sumita said in a prepared statement to the Interim Committee.

Meanwhile, a leading United Nations official called Tuesday for efforts to cut the \$50 billion debt hampering progress in the world's poorest states.

The deputy secretary-general of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Yves Berthelot, said inability to repay public debt meant new credit was denied to the 42 nations classed by the world body as least developed countries (LDCs).

"Many of the LDCs are highly indebted to the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) and it will be a very serious problem for them in the coming years," Berthelot told a news conference at the start of a meeting on enterprise in the LDCs.

Berthelot said foreign enterprises had ignored opportunities for investment in the LDCs. He said direct foreign investment was less than 0.5 per cent of the countries' net inflows.

LDCs would not benefit from Brady's plans, which focus on reducing commercial bank debt. The quickest, easiest way to solve the problem was to adopt a 1987 proposal by the Nordic countries enabling LDCs to repay part of their debt from a special IMF-World Bank fund, Berthelot said.

It was intended to help countries which had received bank credits but were not eligible for more. The plan has been adopted for consideration by the bank.

Chinese congress ends with call for controls, hard work and thrift

BEIJING (Agencies) — China's legislature ended its annual session Tuesday with a call for the government to tighten controls over the economy and for the people to exercise thrift and work hard.

The 2,700 members of the National People's Congress (NPC) also endorsed a state-of-the-nation report by Premier Li Peng, and echoed its themes of the need for economic and social stability.

Li opened the 16-day session with a somber report on widespread economic chaos caused by rising inflation and breakdown in government controls over some aspects of the economy.

The NPC approved a 1989 budget giving priority to education and agriculture and outlining spending of 293.08 billion yuan (\$77.2 billion), with a deficit of 7.4 billion yuan (\$2 billion). It passed two major bills — one giving citizens limited rights to sue the government and a second delineating the powers of the Communist Party-dominated NPC.

One other law giving the special economic zone of Shenzhen, near Hong Kong, the power to make its own laws passed after a rare show of opposition.

There were 274 opposing votes

and 805 abstentions. Huang Xunxin, a delegate from the mainland representing Taiwan, said the NPC was usurping the powers of the province and that other cities also would demand autonomy in lawmaking. The chair ignored demands from the floor for a recount.

The resolution on Li's report said the government should strengthen macro-management and suppress over-eagerness for fast results in economic development. It called for adherence to such ideals as socialist morality, patriotism, collectivism, thrift and hard work.

The NPC's tone this year differed substantially from the 1988 session, when the legislators sought bold new moves away from rigid central planning and the introduction of reforms that would make the economy more responsive to market forces.

In the past year, however, the nation has been hit by inflation now around 36 per cent, a 40 per cent increase in the money supply and an industrial growth rate of near 20 per cent that has caused severe shortages of energy and raw materials.

The deputies said Li's assessment of errors and problems was made in an honest and factual way, and urged the government to attach importance to NPC suggestions on such issues as inflation, family planning, crime and corruption.

All major policy decisions in China are made by the Communist Party Politburo and the State Council, or cabinet, and the NPC does little but give perfunctory approval of laws.

However, in the past few years, it also has tried to foster an image of being a sounding board for government policies.

The body made 120 changes to Li's work report, mostly minor. It added that the State Council should take the lead in eliminating extravagance and waste, and said feasibility studies should be carried out before major policies are made so as to make decision-making more democratic.

The two main laws passed with only minor opposition.

The first law, to go into effect in October next year, gives citizens the right to go to court over what they believe are abuses of the law, but not to challenge the laws themselves.

Premier Li Peng defended his government Monday in the face of widespread discontent over rising prices but indicated no individual would be called to account for past mistakes.

Li said China had made great progress over the last decade but had run into problems by raising prices too quickly last year.

The 60-year-old premier, a Soviet-trained technocrat who took office almost 18 months ago, said he was confident an austerity programme lasting two to three years would stabilise China's overheated economy and bring down inflation.

"At the start of last year excessive price rises worried people. At the same time we also made some mistakes in freezing the prices of some products and this was an error on our part," said Li.

Living standards have fallen for millions of Chinese because of inflation triggered by a halt to government subsidies on many products and exacerbated by widespread corruption.

Prices rose by an official 18.5 per cent last year but Western economists estimate the rate at around 30 per cent.

Alarmed at widespread and vocal protests against inflation by a people long accustomed to stable prices, China's leaders embarked on a policy of austerity last September.

"Without the support of the people our drive to improve the economic environment and rectify the economic order, or even in the larger sense our policy of reform and opening to the outside world, will not succeed," Li commented.

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UAE uncovers Danish meat lacing

COPENHAGEN (AP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) halted meat imports from Denmark after traces of pork were found in a Danish ground beef product, news reports said Tuesday.

UAE inspectors found traces of pig meat in three separate

batches of imported frozen ground beef, the daily newspaper Politiken said.

The head of the Danish Meat Industry Council, Christian Soerensen, was quoted as saying that "a fraud was involved."

Denmark's 100 million kroner (\$13.7 million) meat export to the UAE and other Middle East countries was now at risk, Soerensen said.

The Danish Meat Industry Council called on exporters to halt shipments to the United Arab Emirates, Denmark's public TV said. Agriculture ministry officials and food inspectors were investigating the case.

A Danish food inspector happened to be visiting the UAE last week when the pork was discovered, the daily Det Fri Aktuelt reported.

The agriculture ministry may have known about the beef scandal for weeks without making it public, the paper said.

The emirate news agency WAM issued an official announcement about the import ban Monday, the reports said.

Danish exporters have been accused before of lacing beef with pork. They were later absolved after a chemical analysis failed to distinguish between pig meat and a vegetable protein additive in the beef product.

Poul Sand slaughterhouse, which controls 95 per cent of Danish meat exports, denied any wrongdoing, Politiken said.

One of the batches in which tests indicated the presence of pork came from the food cooperative Dat-Schaub.

"We have had four men working on the case all weekend. We don't believe for a minute that any of our suppliers would dream of mixing pig meat in the product (ground beef) in order to make a profit. Everyone knows the consequences and it would be foolish," director Torben Melgaard of Dat-Schaub was quoted as saying in the Berlingske Tidende newspaper.

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Forbes lists G.M., IBM and Citicorp as top firms

NEW YORK (R) — General Motors Corp. (G.M.) won the 1988 sales race but International Business Machines Corp. (IBM) made the most money, Forbes magazine has reported in introducing its latest list of top 500 companies.

Unlike Fortune magazine, which ranks its Fortune 500 listing by sales only, Forbes ranks the nations leading corporations in four categories: Sales, profits, total assets and stock market value.

It also includes both industrial and service companies in its 500 rankings.

G.M., with sales of \$121.8 billion last year, led the "Forbes Sales 500" for the fourth successive year, the magazine said.

Ford Motor Co., which increased its sales by 15.7 per cent to \$92.4

billion, moved passed Exxon Corp. into second place.

IBM, with \$5.49 billion in profits, retained first place on the "Forbes Profits 500." Ford again bumped Exxon, taking the number two spot with \$5.3 billion.

G.M. was a distant fifth with \$4.6 billion.

Citicorp ended 1988 with \$207.7 billion in assets to hold first place in the "Forbes Assets 500" for the fifth year in a row.

G.M., which had 1988 assets of \$163.8 billion, moved up from sixth to second place.

IBM, with a total 1988 stock market value of \$71.8 billion, retained the top ranking in the "Forbes Market Value 500" for the fifth successive year.

Ford increased its market value to \$24.1 billion, moving it from ninth to sixth place.

WANTED

PROFESSIONAL TRANSLATOR

Arabic to English: must have excellent knowledge of Arabic, ability to translate into fluent idiomatic English, University Education, good working knowledge of current world affairs, ability to work under pressure with precision and speed, and to work day and evening shifts as required including weekends. Premium placed on Accuracy, Judgment, Dedication, Diligence, Reliability. Send Typed or Printed C.V. and a recent picture to:

PERSONAL OFFICE
P.O. Box 354, AMMAN

NB: Recent applicants need not re-apply.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Tuesday, April 4, 1989 Central Bank official rates			
	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	538.0	542.0	85.2 86.0
French franc	514.5	524.5	410.2 414.6
Deutsche mark	267.5	280.5	255.0 257.5
Swiss franc	328.4	332.2	84.3 85.2
			39.2 39.6
			137.4 138.7

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.7020/30	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1880/90	Canadian dollar
	1.6700/10	Deutsche mark
	2.1085/95	Dutch guilders
	1.6370/80	Swiss francs
	39.14/17	Belgian francs
	6.3050/100	French francs
	137.1/1372	Italian lire
	130.85/95	Japanese yen
	6.3680/730	Swedish crowns
	6.7880/930	Norwegian crowns
	7.2760/810	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	386.70/387.20	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKET

SYDNEY — A burst of selling in top industrial and gold stocks dragged the share market down to an 11-month low by the close. The All Ordinaries index fell 18 points to 1,434.0.

TOKYO — Share prices surged in heavy turnover with a stronger yen and lower oil prices helping ease concerns of interest rate rises and inflationary pressures. The Nikkei index jumped 270.18 points to a fifth record close of 33,312.25.

HONG KONG — Stocks staged a late rebound to end higher in thin turnover. One broker said foreign institutional buying provoked the rebound, focusing on a few issues. The Hang Seng index ended 4.71 points higher at 2,991.96.

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SPORTS IN BRIEF

Michigan win U.S. college title

SEATTLE (R)—Rumeal Robinson hit a pair of free throws with three seconds left in overtime to give Michigan the U.S. Collegiate Men's Basketball championship with a dramatic 80-79 win over Seton Hall Monday. It was the first National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Basketball title for the Michigan Wolverines. The Seton Hall Pirates were also going for their first title. "I am the happiest man alive right now," said Michigan interim coach Steve Fisher, who took over coaching duties just before the tournament began. "Rumeal is such a gutsy kid," he said of Robinson's poise at the foul line with Michigan down 79-78.

Czech Davis Cup hopes drop with Mecir

PRAGUE (R)—Czechoslovakia's Davis Cup hopes against West Germany waned Monday after their number one Miloslav Mecir was taken to hospital straight from the practice court suffering from back pains. His appearance for Czechoslovakia in their quarter-final against West Germany Friday now seems unlikely, medical sources said after studying X-rays of Mecir's back. Mecir, 1988 Olympic champion and winner of the Indian Wells event in California last month, had to pull out at the start of the international players championship in Key Biscayne because of a recurring back injury. He began practicing in Prague Monday morning after two painless days. But after about an hour of backhand rallies with team-mate Marian Vajda he suddenly dropped his racket and left the court stooping with pain, eyewitnesses said.

Chess prodigy explains defection

NEW YORK (AP)—Soviet chess prodigy Gata Kamsky said Monday that he and his father chose to defect to the United States because Soviet chess officials had blocked his career for the last three years. "I decided to leave the Soviet Union because I can't plan in chess tournaments, so I can't grow in chess. Here I can play in all the tournaments every year," the 14-year-old Kamsky, speaking in English, said at a crowded news conference at the Marshall Chess Club. His father, Rustam Kamsky, reading from a prepared statement in faltering English, said: "Now we get the freedom. My son can play in different cities in all the world. Please help my wife." Rustam said his wife, Bella, who is Gata's stepmother and remains in Leningrad, knew in advance of their decision to request asylum in the United States when they came here for a chess tournament three weeks ago. "Yes, they discussed it, all together as a family, and they jointly came to this decision that they would stay here," said Lev Albert, a grandmaster who defected from the Soviet Union in 1979 and translated for the Kamskys. Rustam Kamsky said discrimination against the family because they were ethnic Crimean Tatars also had some bearing on their decision.



Touche: Jurgen Nolte, the world's top sabre fencer, stands ready to defend his newly gained number one spot. The 29-year-old German, who has been fencing since the age of ten, feels himself to be in his prime, claiming that the peak age for fencers is between 28 and 32.

IAF endorses global dope control squads

GOTEBORG, Sweden (AP)—The council of the International Amateur Athletic Federation Monday proposed using international doping-control squads to test athletes anywhere in the world, the national news agency TT reported.

Officials of the International Olympic Committee also have proposed creating such global drug-testing squads. "There must be four or five strategically placed groups that can leave on a moment's notice," said Arne Ljungqvist, Sweden's member of the IAAF council. The agency reported that the federation's governing council also gave the Belgian city of Antwerp the right to host the 1991 World Cross Country Championships, over Amorbiet, Spain.

New drug-control regulations could become effective this fall when the guidelines are submitted to the IAAF congress due to meet in Barcelona, Spain, from September 4-5.

The (international anti-doping) operation could begin immediately after a congress decision," Ljungqvist told it. "We've finally agreed on strong measures regarding doping."

The congress of the 23-member world governing body will decide on a global anti-doping package including spot checks coordinated from the IAAF office in London, it reported.

"There are immense administrative, practical and economic problems, but we will solve them," Ljungqvist said.

He stressed that Monday's proposal was meant to show how serious the council views the problem.

The size and cost of the operation hasn't been determined, but \$1 million will be allocated for the first year, it said.

America's Cup legal battle continues

San Diego to challenge ruling

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP)—New Zealand syndicate chairman Michael Fay reacted angrily Tuesday to a San Diego Yacht Club decision to appeal the disqualification of the catamaran Stars and Stripes from the 1988 America's Cup series.

"The world will condemn San Diego for being poor sports and now bad losers," Fay told reporters.

"The world at large has applauded the correctness of Judge Cpanick's ruling and is keen to get on with the next America's Cup," Fay said.

"San Diego had the opportunity to redeem itself but they have rejected it, hiding financial interests behind claims of acting for the good of the cup."

Fay later said on Radio New Zealand that he did not expect delays resulting from the appeal to affect New Zealand plans to hold a regatta in Auckland in 1991.

"Challengers who have talked to us over the last few days are due here some time in probably about late May early June and I think what we will do is we'll just proceed with the plans for a regatta in 1991."

"I think in the short term San Diego are going to have to sign a transfer of the cup over to Mercury Bay as trustee and once that's happened we can push ahead with planning the next cup."

"I think it's manageable but it is probably more of an inconvenience to the other challengers around the world."

The appeal will leave unclear the location of the next contest until the end of the legal wrangling over yachting's premier trophy.

San Diego (AP)—The San Diego Yacht Club Monday announced it will appeal a New York judge's ruling which forfeits the America's Cup to defeated New Zealand challenger Michael Fay.

The nine-member SDYC board voted unanimously to take up the appeal following Saturday's recommendation by its organizer, the America's Cup organizing committee.

"As trustee, we feel our overriding responsibility is to protect the future viability of the America's Cup," said yacht club commodore Patrick Goddard. "A sporting event cannot survive under the vague rule of the court's decision."

Goddard said he was not sure when the appeal would be filed but court procedures require the papers to be filed within 30 days of the ruling. Arguments would probably be heard in appellate division of the New York Supreme Court in September, with a decision sometime in 1990.

The next America's Cup series is due to be held in 1991. If the judge's ruling stands it would be in New Zealand, but it would revert to San Diego if it won its appeal.

Goddard argued that all organized sports had governing bodies

responsible for setting and administering the rules.

"The court doesn't understand that we have such an authority in our sport. It is called the International Yacht Racing Union, and has a set of rules that the SDYC has adopted. The America's Cup match in 1988 was governed by those same rules," Goddard said, adding that Mercury Bay had agreed to the IYRU rules prior to the September races.

"Mercury Bay could have protested to the international jury, but did not. Thereafter, under the racing rules, they have no right of appeal," Goddard added.

"When we won the cup in '87, we won the right to have the regatta here, not for the money but for the pride," said Goddard.

Conner, who in 1983 became the first U.S. skipper to lose the America's Cup, won it back from Australia in 1987 by beating Iain Murray's Kookaburra III 4-0 in the best-of-seven series.

Conner said last week he was disappointed by the judge's ruling but did not favor an appeal.

Bucharest prepare to meet Turks in UEFA tie

BUCHAREST (R)—Steaua Bucharest, unbeaten at home since May 1986, are confident they can secure a comfortable victory when they meet Turkish champions Galatasaray in their European Cup semifinal first leg Wednesday.

Steaua, winners of the trophy in 1986, will have more than home advantage to bolster their optimism — while they will be appearing in their third semifinal in four seasons, Galatasaray will be the first Turkish team to appear in the last four of any of the three European soccer tournaments.

Steaua coach Angel Iordanescu believes this could be a crucial advantage. "We may be considered lucky we face Galatasaray," he said. "He could be playing Milan or Real Madrid and it would be tougher. I think our chances to play in the final in Barcelona are good."

While most attention has been focused on the meeting of Real Madrid and Italian champions AC Milan, Steaua have crept through to the last four in their shadows with performances full of confidence and skill.

In the quarter-finals they crushed Sweden's IFK Gothenburg 5-2 on aggregate and in the earlier rounds they beat Spartak Prague and Moscow Spartak equally convincingly.

Galatasaray reached the last four despite having to play their quarter-final "home leg" against Monaco in Cologne because of crowd trouble at their Istanbul ground earlier in the competition.

Dynamo will be without star striker Ulf Kirsten who was suspended for four games after being sent off in the quarter-finals.

Capitals finally come first

NEW YORK (AP)—In past years, the Washington Capitals were like the slogan of a national car company: they always prided themselves on trying hard but always wound up second best in the National Hockey League.

All that changed now, with the first divisional championship in franchise history.

Now, the Capitals seem to be in good position with the home-ice advantage in their divisional Stanley Cup playoff games that open Wednesday night.

"It's definitely the best team we've ever had," defenseman Scott Stevens said, as the Capitals prepared to meet the Philadelphia Flyers in a Patrick division opener at the Capital Centre, one of eight first-round games.

"We've been in Washington since I've been in Washington."

"We've got three lines that can score. We used to only have one line. And our defense is strong."

In other opening playoff action Wednesday night, it will be the New York Rangers at Pittsburgh

in the other Patrick Division game; Hartford at Montreal and Buffalo at Boston in the Adams; Chicago at Detroit and Minnesota at St. Louis in the Norris; and Vancouver at Calgary and Edmonton at Los Angeles in the Smythe.

There are many who think the Capitals put the finishing touches on this season's team with the acquisition of forward Dino Ciccarelli and defenseman Bob Rouse. They were acquired late in the season in a deal which sent forward Mike Gartner and defenseman Larry Murphy to Minnesota.

Ciccarelli is a more creative shot-maker than Gartner, a long-time favorite in Washington.

"The team fits very well together at this point," coach Bryan Murray said. "They have a great attitude — they work hard together, play well together and are good guys in the (locker) room."

"As they play more and more

together, it will upgrade the team as a whole. Right now, I'm happy the way things are. I think we're a good club."

That's good news to Washington fans, who have followed the Capitals through some bad times and good, but always ending in disappointment in the Stanley Cup playoffs.

Their playoff failures continued to haunt them even in 1983-84, 1984-85 and 1985-86 when they won 48, 46 and 50 games, respectively, during the regular season.

"We've played well for five, six years," Murray said. "We've been second for five, six years in a row. The one thing I prided my team on was effort, determination in every game. We were always close, win or lose."

"So when you're rewarded with first place, it's a nice reward. It's a nice message to our players and to our fans that we're at the top. It's a sense of relief that it happened."

Orioles dispel '88 nightmare

NEW YORK (AP)—It took the Baltimore Orioles 11 innings to get their first victory of the season. Last year, it took them a record 22 games.

The Orioles, who lost their first 21 games last year, won their season opener Monday, beating the American League east champion Boston Red Sox 5-4 on Rookie Craig Worthington's 11th-inning single.

U.S. President George Bush threw out the ceremonial first pitch but left in the seventh inning with the score tied 4-4.

Boston ace Roger Clemens left one inning later.

Worthington, who grounded out with runners at first and third and one out in the ninth, came up in the same situation two innings

later. This time, he singled off Mike Smithson after Bob Stanley walked Mickey Tettleton, who took third on Randy Milligan's hit-and-run single. Worthington flared a 1-0 pitch into left-center past centre fielder Ellis Burks' dive, fanning a Boston defence of five infielders.

"It was jittery because I had the same opportunity before in I don't know what inning it was," Worthington said. "Smithson is the same kind of pitcher Stanley is — a sinker-slider pitcher. I was just looking for a pitch over the plate."

Brian Holton pitched 4 1-3 innings of scoreless relief for the victory. It was Boston's fourth straight defeat on opening day.

Baltimore scored its first four runs against Clemens.

"It was fun to win the first one, especially after last year," Holton said. "I wasn't here, but I talked with some of the guys and I know they were relieved."

Baltimore's Cal Ripken hit a three-run homer in the sixth inning. Boston's Mike Greenwell hit a two-run homer off Dave Schmidt in the top of the sixth.

Jimmy Key won on opening day for the third straight year and Fred McGriff and Lloyd Moseby each had two hits as the Toronto Blue Jays beat the Kansas City Royals 4-3. Key, who beat the Royals 5-3 in last season's opener, gave up two runs on six hits in six innings.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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PICK YOUR DEMISE

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ 7 4 3
♥ Q 7
♦ A K Q
♣ K Q 6 4

WEST
♠ 9 6 2
♥ K 8 5
♦ 8 5 4 2
♣ A 8 3

EAST
♠ 3 6 4 3
♥ J 3 6 4 3
♦ J 10 7 6
♣ 10 9 5 2

SOUTH
♠ A K Q J 10
♥ A 10 9 2
♦ Q 3
♣ J 7

The bidding:
North East South West
1 NT Pass 3♥ Pass
4♥ Pass 4♥ Pass
4♥ Pass 5♥ Pass
4♥ Pass 6♥ Pass
Opening lead: Two of ♠

There's a saying in the Old Country: "If you drink the water you die, and if you don't drink the water you die." Here's a hand that bears out the wisdom of that adage.

North had his bidding boots on. First, he cue-bid in support of spades on a bid that might not even be worth his full 16 count, then he raised South's invitational bid to slam. Fortunately, South had the

skill to take advantage of a lucky distribution.

Declarer won the opening lead in hand and drew two more rounds of trumps at East discarded two diamonds. Next came a low club, and West had to swallow a poisoned pill. If he rose with the ace of clubs, declarer would have three high cards in dummy on which to discard his losing hearts—two clubs and a diamond. So West followed low, but that turned out to be no better.

Dummy's queen of clubs won, and declarer cashed out the diamonds, shuffling the jack of clubs from hand. Next, he ran the queen of hearts to West's king, and that defender was faced with a pill even more noxious.

If West returned a club, he would set up the queen of clubs as a trick with a heart ruff at the entry. If, instead, he selected a heart, he would be leading into declarer's A 10 tenace.

His actual choice of a diamond was equally futile. Declarer ruffed in dummy and discarded a heart from hand. A successful finesse of the ten of hearts produced the 12th trick for a most fortuitous result. (P.S. We know South should have used Sayman.)

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 1989

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Nighter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The new moon in Aries is always a great time to start new activities. The sun and moon are in a good position to give you a challenge and to control when not directed and used.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) If you target a new project today it could be a bullseye. The new moon position is in your favor. Be confident that your ideas can work.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Spending time with Mother Nature is good therapy for the nerves. Consider extended travel plans to a faraway place.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) The new moon focuses on commitment, relationships, new beginnings, and invitations. Romance can bring sexual excitement.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Your search for power, achievement and a strong relationship is intense. The current cycle also shows a need for independence and self-sufficiency.

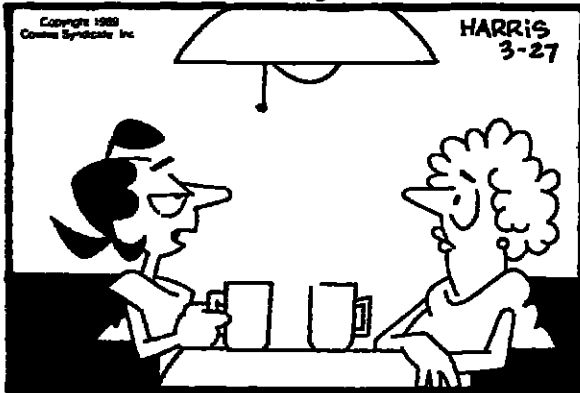
VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) The new moon focuses on increased social life, physical exercise and young people. Communications and emotional stability improves.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Opportunities for romance are available. Relationships surface.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!
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THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"I don't get along well with Stanley's mother. I've never forgiven her for teaching him how to talk."

JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

FIDUL

DEEGH

YETUR

TOIPLE

Boy—is he ugly!

WHAT POSITION DOES A MONSTER PLAY ON THE HOCKEY TEAM?

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

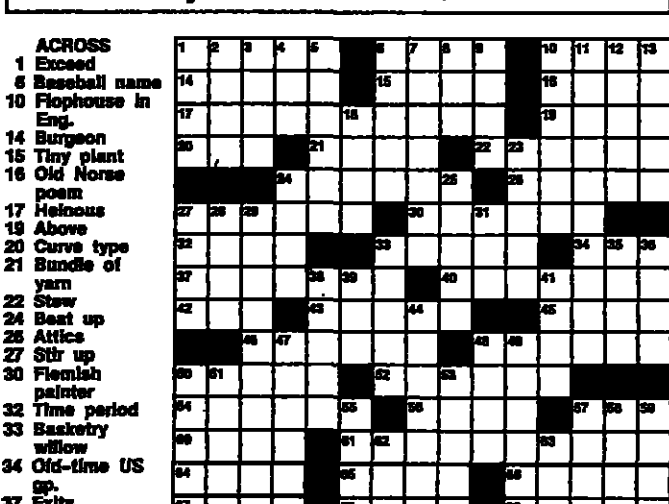
Print answer here: "O O O O O O O O O O"

(Answer tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: FAVOR CLOVE NOTIFY MOTION

Answer: What the bigamist took—ONE TOO MANY

THE Daily Crossword by Russell McDowall

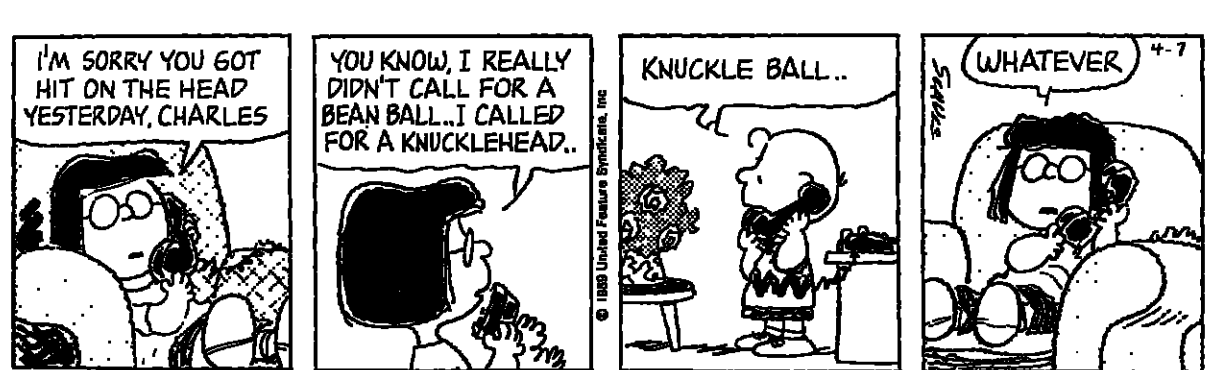


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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1 Across: 1. Exceed
2. Baseball name
3. Flophouse in Eng.
4. Burgen
5. Tiny plant
6. Old Norse poem
7. Helms
8. Above
9. Curve type
10. Bundle of yarn
11. Stew
12. Best up
13. Attics
14. 28 ft.
15. Finnish painter
16. Time period
17. Exhaustory
18. Old-time US sp.
19. Sals
20. Unaffected
21. Slangy affirmative
22. Parades
23. C. city
24. Convert
25. Interruption
26. Fideles
27. Hot medicated cloth
28. Curtains
29. Act of civility
30. Med. subj.
31. A garden
32. Bird's forte
33. Got the better of
34. Join
35. Cap or hole
36. Pretty girl
37. Heavenly being; Ft.
38. Bridge seat
39. Makes well
40. Catkin
41. Bees
42. Columbus campus letters
43. Soviet letters
44. Mythical creature
45. Groochy
46. Proboscis
47. Newf term
48. Libartine
49. Spats
50. Ms Arthur
51. Amos
52. Preserve
53. Blackthorn
54. Park, Colo.
55. Beverage
56. Utensils
57. Tolls
58. Comprehension
59. Bed
60. Withdraw
61. La —, Milan quaffs
62. City near SOD
63. Map of a kind
64. Bondage
65. girl
66. Covering
67. Fruit
68. Ms Merkel
69. Be sorry

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff

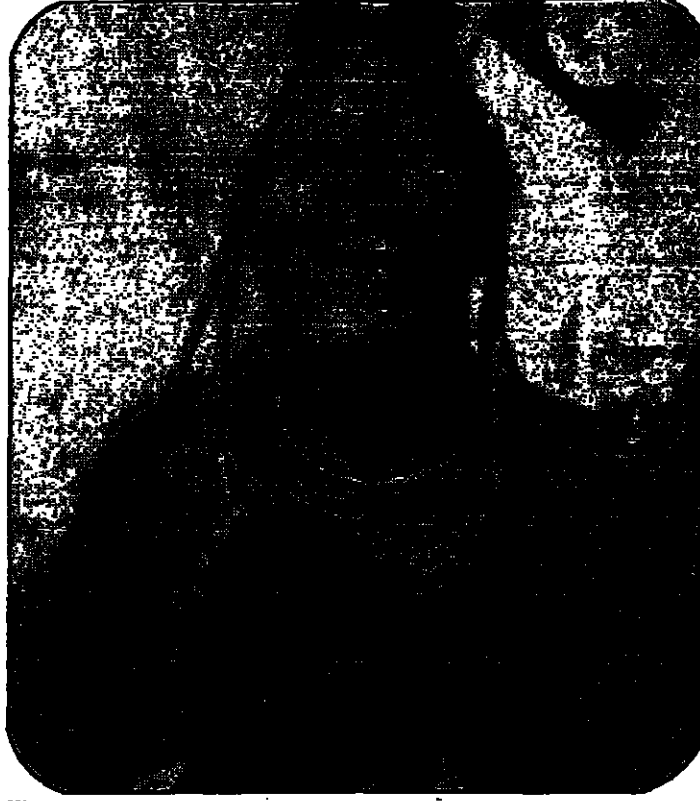


Andy Capp





SWAPO troops remain tense and ready. The arrival of U.N. forces has not been able to bring peace to the country



Thousands of Namibians such as this woman were out in force Friday to cheer the motorcade of the U.N. representative, Marti Ahtisaari. Unfortunately the happiness was short-lived

Namibia bush war rages despite increasing SWAPO losses

OSHAKATI, Namibia (R) — Fierce fighting raged on in the dense bush of northern Namibia Tuesday despite mounting losses among black nationalist guerrillas who are pitted against the South African-led security forces.

A Namibian police spokesman said 101 guerrillas of the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) and 19 police had been killed since the low-level 23-year-old war exploded Saturday into a burst of pre-independence bloodshed.

Police said there was no possibility of negotiating with the small, scattered bands of heavily-armed SWAPO fighters who have been battling Namibian forces for four days since the start

of a U.N.-supervised transition to independence from South Africa.

"When we come into contact with SWAPO we have come under fire every time... this is not a situation where we can engage in negotiation," chief inspector Derek Brune told a news conference.

But Colonel Michael Moriarty, who is acting as a liaison officer with the Angolan government and SWAPO in Angola told Reu-

ters in Luanda Tuesday that the U.N., Angola and SWAPO were working to organise a ceasefire.

Marrack Goulding, U.N. under-secretary for political affairs and chief of the U.N. peacekeeping forces around the world, was due in Luanda Tuesday to discuss ways of ending the fighting, he said.

Brune said six SWAPO guerrillas had been captured and an unknown number wounded, while 41 members of the security forces had been injured in one of the war's bloodiest confrontations.

Some of the heaviest fighting was at the settlement of Oshikango, near Angola about 50 kilometres north of Oshakati.

Despite the heavy losses, there appeared to be no respite.

Bursts of automatic gunfire could clearly be heard at night from outside the military compound at this remote town near the Angolan border while troops laid down artillery fire and lit the sky with flares after reports of a planned SWAPO advance.

Helicopter gunships ranged across the sky, seeking out SWAPO ambushes of armoured cars and supply convoys threw up huge columns of white dust along the normally quiet roads.

The SWAPO fighters are said to be armed with SAM-7 heat-seeking missiles, threatening air traffic.

In an account largely accepted by the United Nations, South Africa says SWAPO sparked the conflict by pushing 1,200 soldiers across the frontier from Angola Saturday in defiance of a ceasefire which was due to start April 1.

Pretoria accuses the guerrillas of trying to establish bases inside Namibia from which to influence voters during U.N.-supervised elections in November which will precede Namibia's independence from Pretoria.

SWAPO counters that the security forces attacked its fighters, who were looking for U.N. peacekeeping troops to whom they could report, as required

under the peace agreement. Guerrilla spokesmen abroad and in Namibia reproached the 650-strong U.N. Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) for not having enough troops in the north in time for April 1.

"Where is UNTAG? They are supposed to stop the carnage in this country but instead the fighting has erupted since they came. The people are bitter," a SWAPO official in Windhoek said.

South African military intelligence announced that U.N. troops would join security force patrols as observers.

"U.N. troops will be accompanying our army patrols. By monitoring the situation they can

get a picture of it," Ovambo regional army intelligence chief Colonel Japie Dreyer told reporters in Oshakati. He did not say when they would start.

None of the light-blue bereted international peacekeeping force was visible in Oshakati.

In New York, SWAPO backers attacked the decision by the U.N. chief representative in Namibia, Marti Ahtisaari, to allow South Africa troops to leave their bases, to which they had been confined since Saturday under the ceasefire pact.

Dreyer said South African and territory troops had been in action alongside the police counter-insurgency forces since midday Monday.

Prince campaigns to protect Earth

LONDON (AP) — Britain's Prince Philip, president of the World Wide Fund for Nature, warns that all life on Earth is threatened unless urgent action is taken to save animals, plants and insects from destruction. "Mankind is at the top of a fragile natural structure, and if we continue to erode the infrastructure, it will be like sawing off a branch of a tree while sitting on it," the husband of Queen Elizabeth II told a London meeting recently. "If we do nothing," it will mean disaster in the long term. What we do not want to do is reduce this planet to something like Mars," he said. Prince Philip spoke to launch an appeal for \$60 million by the Swiss-based fund to protect biological diversity from threats such as the destruction of tropical rain forests. The prince arrived at the meeting in a pollution-free electric powered car.

Kelly resting after bout with pneumonia

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Hollywood song-and-dance man Gene Kelly has been released from the hospital after a bout with pneumonia. "He's at home now, resting," said Beebe Kline, a publicist for Kelly. Kelly, 76, had been admitted to Cedars-Sinai Hospital under a pseudonym. "He came in quietly," said hospital spokesman Ron Wise. "His physicians didn't want him to be bothered by phone calls or visitors." The illness forced the entertainer to cancel a weekend performance of his one-man show, "Evening with Gene Kelly" at La Mirada Civic Centre.

Critics trailing 'The Marquise de Sade'

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Ingmar Bergman's production of a Japanese play has not yet gone before the critics, but it already has been invited to go on the road. The famed director opens "The Marquise de Sade," by Japanese playwright Yukio Mishima, on April 8 at the Royal Dramatic Theatre, after he scrapped plans to stage Shakespeare's "A Winter's Tale." The play, with an all-female cast, has received invitations so far from Tokyo and Denmark. theatre spokesman Leif Ostman said Thursday. "Bergman is such a giant in the world that of course they are pulling at his sleeve," Ostman said. At 70, Bergman has retired from filmmaking. Last April, he produced Eugene O'Neill's "A Long Day's Journey into Night," at the Dramatic Theatre, the same stage where it had its world premiere 32 years earlier.

Prison ministries to deal with crime

GRAND RAPIDS (AP) — Charles Colson, who was among those convicted in the Watergate political scandal that led to former President Richard Nixon's resignation, says prison ministries like the one he started 13 years ago are the only way to fight crime. About 30,000 inmates at 550 state and federal prisons have been through Colson's prison fellowship seminars, he said Thursday. During the next three years, 60,000 more inmates will go through them, he said. The programme, which is in prisons in 34 countries, has about 22,000 U.S. volunteers, some of whom are reformed criminals. "The secular world has to take notice," said the 57-year-old Colson, who addressed about 250 prison chaplains and church pastors from across Michigan at Calvary Church. "This is the only way we're going to deal with crime."

The weather at major world capitals & cities

	MIN.	MAX.	W. Weather
AMSTERDAM	10	14	04 Cloudy
ATHENS	09	48	22 Cloudy
BANGKOK	28	79	35 Clear
BANGKOK	28	79	35 Clear
BUENOS AIRES	14	57	26 Clear
CAIRO	14	57	26 Clear
CHICAGO	06	42	11 Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	02	28	02 Clear
FRANKFURT	03	37	05 Rain
GENEVA	06	46	17 Cloudy
HONG KONG	23	73	27 Cloudy
ISTANBUL	11	52	20 Clear
LONDON	08	38	07 Clear
LOS ANGELES	14	59	37 Clear
MADRID	06	41	07 Clear
MECCA	21	70	33 Cloudy
MIAMI	23	73	26 Cloudy
MONTREAL	04	39	08 Rain
MOSCOW	-02	28	02 Clear
NEW DELHI	14	57	32 Clear
NEW YORK	07	44	14 Cloudy
PARIS	01	34	10 Cloudy
ROME	06	49	19 Cloudy
TOKYO	11	52	16 Clear
VIENNA	06	41	15 Cloudy

Castro tight-lipped after talks

HAVANA (AP) — After talks with Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev, a cheerful President Fidel Castro seemed pleased but was noncommittal, leaving no hint that ideological differences impaired the relationship between Moscow and its long-standing overseas ally.

"Family-like," was now Castro Monday night described the talks after bidding Gorbachev good night on the steps of the presidential palace.

When reporters pressed him for details, Castro said "glasnost manana" — the Russian word for Gorbachev's programme of greater openness and the Spanish for "tomorrow."

That was Castro's way of saying that more on the discussions will be known when Gorbachev addresses the national assembly late Tuesday afternoon, the last major scheduled event during his 63-hour stay in Cuba. Moments before Castro said goodnight, Gorbachev descended

the steps of the ornate pre-revolutionary palace with his wife, Raissa, at his side. They received applause from the diplomats and officials who had joined them for a glittering reception.

Aside from visits to two monuments and an exhibit highlighting the achievements of the revolution, Gorbachev spent Monday with Castro in talks.

Speculation swirled all day about a possible Gorbachev announcement forgiving Cuba its debt to the Soviet Union, estimated at between \$8 billion and \$20 billion, but Castro said that issue never came up.

Debt, he said, is not a problem for Cuba but for other Latin American countries. His answer did not appear to rule out a Gorbachev announcement that he will give Cuba a break on debt repayments.

Combined with the estimated \$6 billion Cuba owes Western countries, the island is one of the most heavily indebted countries

in the world in per-capita terms.

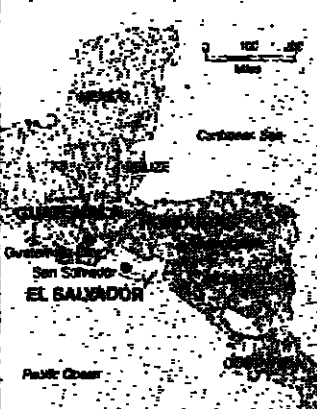
Diplomats in Havana and in Moscow, speaking on condition they not be identified, have said the Soviets already appear to have reduced the subsidies they pay by buying Cuban sugar at higher-than-world-market prices. And some said they expected Gorbachev to tell Castro bluntly — but in private — that Cuba must put its economic house in order.

Gennady I. Gerasimov, Gorbachev's spokesman, said the morning portion of the talks stressed Latin American debt and drug trafficking.

Gorbachev told the United Nations in December the Soviet Union was prepared to offer the least-developed countries a moratorium on debt payments and "in quite a few cases to write off the debt altogether."

Castro has campaigned for years for cancellation of Latin America's \$420-billion foreign debt

Salvador army cited in deaths of journalists



SAN SALVADOR (R) — El Salvador's most respected human rights monitor said Monday the armed forces committed serious rights violations in the deaths of three journalists covering last month's presidential elections.

The Catholic Church's legal support office Tutela Legal said that in the deaths of the journalists — two Salvadorans and a Dutchman — government soldiers had committed "grave crimes" for which they should face civil charges.

"These acts represent grave violations of human rights," Tutela Legal concluded in a 15-page review of the three cases.

Salvadoran photographer Roberto Navas was killed and fellow Salvadoran photographer Luis Galdamez was seriously wounded when they were fired upon by air force troops after crossing a checkpoint in San Salvador on election eve.

Both freelance photographers were covering the election for Reuters.

On election day March 19, Mauricio Pineda de Leon, a soundman for Channel 12 local television, was shot dead in the station's car at an army roadblock near San Miguel city 140 kilometres east of San Salvador.

Dutch television cameraman Cornel Lagrouw, was killed while covering a battle between government troops and rebels in San Francisco Javier in southeastern El Salvador.

Foreign journalists evacuating Lagrouw said an army helicopter fired on their vehicle, forcing them to seek cover several times before they could reach a local hospital.

"The two cases of the Salvadoran journalists and the attack on the foreign journalists driving their cars are grave crimes committed by members of the armed forces in which the penal code should be applied," the Tutela Legal review said.

Five air force servicemen have been confined to their base pending an investigation into the shooting of Navas and Galdamez, although no formal charges have been lodged.

Wage dispute threatens Warsaw-Solidarity talks

WARSAW (AP) — Solidarity leader Lech Walesa went home to Gdansk Tuesday after a marathon negotiating session with authorities in Poland's future broke up over the issue of protecting workers' incomes.

A spokesman in Walesa's office in Gdansk confirmed he had gone home and said Walesa would return to Warsaw Wednesday morning.

But the Solidarity leader's sudden departure from the capital appeared to cast doubt on the possibility of concluding a historic reform agreement with authorities Wednesday, as originally planned.

In Warsaw, negotiators were seeking ways to overcome the disagreement with the official trade union alliance OPZZ over linking wage increases to the inflation rate. The dispute emerged

earlier Tuesday, threatening to scuttle agreements on economic and political reforms reached during two months of talks between Solidarity and authorities.

An "editing" committee of senior government and opposition negotiators met at the council of ministers palace in Warsaw, a source close to Solidarity said.

Walesa's decision to make the four-hour drive to Gdansk immediately after a 10-hour meeting with Interior Minister Czeslaw Kiszczak ended at 2 a.m.

The Solidarity leader had been expected to stay in Warsaw Tuesday for further talks with Kiszczak. State-controlled radio reported at midday the talks had resumed.

"All I can say is that the talks are to be continued," Ryszard Straus of the government press

office said when asked about the developments. A government news conference scheduled for Tuesday was cancelled.

Solidarity and the government, in separate statements early Tuesday, expressed hope that agreement could be reached despite the dispute with the OPZZ.

The key outstanding issue appears to be a Solidarity proposal to index wages to prices to protect workers' incomes against inflation. Solidarity and the government have agreed that works would have wages increased at 80 per cent of the inflation rate.

Under the plan, if consumer prices rise by 50 per cent, a worker would be guaranteed an automatic raise of 40 per cent. High-earning workers would get more in compensation than low-earning workers.

India opposition walks out over assassination report

NEW DELHI (AP) — Opposition parliament members walked out Tuesday after the government refused to release two volumes of a secret inquiry into the 1984 assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

The walkout occurred in the upper house, while in the lower house, an opposition move to invite legal opinion on what constituted the full report was rejected when ruling Congress Party members voted against the proposal.

The government on March 27 released the interim and final report of the inquiry into Gandhi's assassination but withheld two volumes of appendices, saying they contained classified material.

The released volumes, which had been kept secret for three

years on grounds of state security, concluded there were reasonable grounds to suspect that Gandhi's personal assistant, Rajendra Kumar Dhawan, was involved in the assassination.

In the Rajya Sabha, or upper house, the government said it had fulfilled its statutory obligations by releasing the interim and final reports.

Before walking out, opposition Janata Party member M.S. Gurupadaswamy said the government's stand was "unreasonable, inflexible and irresponsible." He said withholding of parts of the report raised suspicion that the government was concealing facts.

Gandhi was shot and killed in the garden of her New Delhi residence Oct. 31, 1984 by two of her Sikh bodyguards.

One of the assassins was shot

and killed by other bodyguards. The other was hanged in January after being convicted of murder.

While turning over the report to parliament, Home Minister Bata Singh said the allegations against Dhawan had been investigated by a special team of detectives and found baseless.

Dhawan, 52, left his post soon after Gandhi's assassination but returned to the government in February as an aide to her son and successor, Rajiv Gandhi.

The inquiry gave no motive for Dhawan's alleged involvement, but noted Gandhi had reprimanded him a month before the assassination and made inquiries about replacing him.

It accused him of facilitating Gandhi's murder by countermanning an order to change security provisions.

Korea bomber trial nears end

SEOUL (AP) — A woman who confessed to being a North Korean agent hung her head in court Tuesday as she heard testimony that the bomb she planted on a South Korean airliner was so powerful it destroyed the plane in an instant, killing all 115 people aboard.

The woman, identified as Kim Hyon Yui, 27, sat motionless, eyes downcast and shoulders slumped as the court heard an expert say the bomb, disguised as a radio and a liquor bottle, would have exploded with such impact that the pilot could not have called for help before he died.

"Why do you keep her alive?" screamed relatives of victims allowed into the courtroom.

Security was tight as hundreds of police and security agents ringed Seoul district court for the hearing. South Korean law stipulates a court hearing must be held even if a suspect has confessed. Kim said in a televised news conference in January 1988 that

she planted a bomb in the South Korean airliner in November 1987 as part of a North Korean plot to undermine the 1988 summer Olympic Games in Seoul.

North Korea has denied it had anything to do with the incident. Police Lieutenant Kim Moon-Ho, an explosives expert, said the mixture of explosives used in the bomb was so powerful that when detonated in a sealed space "there would be no time, no chance, to contact anybody."

The prosecutor was expected to call for a death sentence, but government officials have indicated that Kim will be pardoned because they say she was duped by North Korea and has repented.

Kim's defence attorney, Ahn Dong-Il, said his client should not be punished, even though she admitted to planting the bomb. He said she was "forced to commit the act and it is someone else who needs to be punished — North Korea."

Sentencing was set for April 25.

The Korean Air Boeing 707 disappeared on a flight from Baghdad to Seoul over the Andaman Sea as it approached the Burmese coast and the bodies of those aboard were never recovered.

Kim said she and another intelligence agent posed as Japanese tourists and planted the bomb while flying on an earlier leg of the flight from Baghdad to Abu Dhabi.

The Korean Air branch manager in Abu Dhabi at the time, Kim Tae-Hwan, testified Tuesday that he suspected Kim and her companion as soon as he heard the plane was missing.

He said airline lists showed all the passengers who left the plane in Abu Dhabi were Middle Eastern except the two listed as Japanese tourists, who he flew on to Bahrain. Kim said "I was immediately suspicious and alerted authorities."

War kills 150,000 African children

UNITED NATIONS (R) — About 150,000 children in southern Africa die each year because of the effects of conflict, particularly in Angola and Mozambique, according to a report published Tuesday under the auspices of the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF).

"By 1988, the number of Angolan and Mozambican children under the age of five whose lives were lost as a consequence of war and destabilisation totalled more people than were killed by atomic bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki."

"The toll is still rising and will not fall until the conflicts have ceased," it said, alluding to in-

surgeries backed at various times by South Africa against those countries' Marxist governments.

The report, titled "Children on the Front Line: The Impact of Apartheid, Destabilisation and Warfare on Children in Southern and South Africa," was drafted for UNICEF by eight experts on economic, medical and political aspects of the region.

It said the nine countries of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) — Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe — had a population of some 70 millions.

"Out of approximately three and a half million annual births, some 750,000 children die before the age of five. A fifth of this loss is attributed to the impact of conflict."

Drought, floods, lack of access to hard currency, falling terms of trade, rising debt service and the legacy of past mistakes in domestic policy all played a role in undermining the health and welfare of the children of southern Africa, the report said.

"But the main culprits are war and economic pressure, whose targets are not only economic and military but also the very social fabric of nations," it added.

Kohl, Mitterrand discuss missiles

GUENZBURG, West Germany (AP) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl took a break Tuesday from domestic woes to meet with French President Francois Mitterrand to talk about a defence issue that has isolated West Germany within the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) alliance.

The question of whether the 16-nation organisation should replace its aging Lance missiles with newer, longer-range rockets was expected to be the central topic during the talks at Reimsburg castle overlooking the Donau River.

Thousands of flag-waving Bavarians turned out in this village's central marketplace to welcome the two leaders for the first of their regular exchange visits to be held in the southern German state.

Kohl flew from Bonn after a flurry of morning meetings about his impending cabinet reshuffle, to be announced in mid-April. West Germany and France have put aside traditional differences and rivalries over the past year to join forces and work for a more influential role for Europe in East-West relations.

Both Kohl and Mitterrand have fostered close ties with

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev since he came to power four years ago and embarked on a series of disarmament initiatives.

But Mitterrand and Kohl part ways over the missile issue.

Kohl wants a decision on whether to "modernise" the U.S.-built Lance missiles put off at least two years while the superpowers work toward reducing nuclear weapons stationed on the continent.

Most of the 700 Lance missiles and 88 launchers are based in West Germany, making the question of modernisation particularly contentious among West Germans.

The NATO plan calls for replacing the Lance missiles, which are capable of reaching targets about 120 kilometres away, with modern rockets that have a range of 500 kilometres. The changeover would not be executed until the mid 1990s, but U.S. officials contend a go-ahead vote was needed now to allow time to win the U.S. Congress' support for a new missile programme.

Mitterrand has sided with the United States and Britain in pushing for endorsement of the modernisation plan. The next NATO summit is in Brussels at

the end of May.

Kohl, in an attempt to appease West Germany's defence-oriented public, contends a vote on modernisation could be put off until at least 1991 without harm to the alliance's defences.

The West German public strongly opposes modernisation on grounds that any re-armament programme would disrupt ongoing nuclear weapons talks. Kohl has been beset with criticism of his government's handling of the missile question, as well as other defence and domestic issues. He spent the past two weeks vacationing in Austria to work out a plan to reorganise his government.

Among the changes under consideration, according to West German media, is removal of Rupert Scholz as defence minister.

Scholz is considered by voters to be the architect of the Bonn government's defence policies.

In addition to broad public resistance to the modernisation proposal, the Bonn government has been criticised for allowing NATO troops to stage disruptive manoeuvres and low-level flying practice over heavily populated West German territory.